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SWEET NEWS FOR DIETERS



HENMAN MARCHES ON AT US OPEN

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Russia's fate hangs on Yeltsin's powers of persuasion

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will meet his parliamentary opponents today for make-or-break talks that will determine whether Russia emerges from its political paralysis.

After intense haggling, Mr Yeltsin is expected to offer opposition leaders a power-sharing agreement to boost the authority of the Duma, the Communist-led lower house of parliament. In return he will expect support for Viktor Chernomyrdin, the acting Prime Minister whose nomination will be put to the Duma again this afternoon after being overwhelmingly rejected last week.

Mr Chernomyrdin has announced a recovery plan that would involve the printing of roubles to pay off back debts and the imposition of an "economic dictatorship" in the new year to bolster the national currency, whose value has fallen by two thirds in a month. But without parliamentary confirmation, he cannot form a government to implement his plan.

To entice deputies to support his candidate Mr Yeltsin will offer the Duma new powers, including the right to vet most cabinet appointments, a move that could bring both communists and nationalists into the Government. However, no one is willing to predict the outcome of the struggle — especially as a similar deal collapsed at the last moment last week.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, has again insisted that his faction — the largest in parliament — will oppose Mr Chernomyrdin and he has put forward a number of other names, including Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow and Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the upper house of parliament. In spite of that, the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, whose party will back Mr Chernomyrdin, predicted that the nomination would eventually pass.

But Grigori Yavlinsky, the head of the liberal Yabloko movement opposed to both Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Yeltsin, said that the game was not over yet. "In Russia only an idiot would make predictions," he said, adding that the country's situation could only improve once Mr Yeltsin was forced from power. "As a rule it is quite rare that he says something sensible."

The political fight in Moscow has exasperated Russians, who fear that the lack of leadership is plunging the country ever deeper into trouble. And the presidential hopeful Aleksandr Lebed gave a warning yesterday that if the crisis were not resolved within a week, the people would go out on the streets and "sweep away the powers-that-be with a single stroke". Patriarch Aleksi II, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, also spoke for many when he urged politicians to stop their self-destructive power games. "The main thing is to keep public peace and accord," he said at a service in Moscow. "If we loose them, the consequences may be irreversible."

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Bank write-off, page 48

Man United will get formal offer this week

BY RAYMOND SNODDY AND JILL SHERMAN

A FORMAL £575 million takeover offer for Manchester United by BSkyB is likely to be made before the end of this week. Negotiations were continuing last night, with two Manchester United directors believed to be arguing that the suggested price is too low for a unique asset.

Although a number of politicians were quick to express concern over the proposed takeover, both sides are confident that the deal would achieve regulatory approval.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, said that an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading was possible because of the "very, very profound" consequences. "There are clear implications here that make me feel that this is not something that can just be treated as if it were just a normal takeover of one publicly quoted company by another," Mr Banks said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

Some Labour MPs were also angry about the idea of further power being handed to Rupert Murdoch, and served warning that they would campaign hard against the deal.

Manchester United made profits of £27.6 million in the past year. The exclusive rights to show FA Carling Premiership games are at the heart of BSkyB's business. The existing deal runs out in 2001 and with 200-channel digital television systems coming on stream the FA Premier League clubs could launch their own football channels, including electronic pay-per-view season tickets.

Ownership of Manchester United would guarantee BSkyB some of the most attractive games and deals could also be done with other clubs. However, some Manchester United directors believe that now is the wrong time to sell because in two or three years time the club could be even more valuable when digital is more fully established and the agreement with BSkyB runs out.

Downing Street reacted cautiously to news of the negotiations, saying that the Prime Minister agreed that there were serious competition implications. "We would look very carefully at the competition issues that might arise and the normal procedures will be followed."

The Department of Trade and Industry said that the details of the case would be closely examined by ministers and officials but refused to comment any further. However, government sources suggested that a referral was possible because of claims that the deal could be "anti-competitive".

Joe Ashton, Labour chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on association football, said: "If Parliament had been sitting there would have been more than 100 MPs complaining very strongly about unfair competition."

It is also likely that Karel van Miert, the European Competition commissioner who has in the past expressed concern about the impact of exclusive sports rights deals, will want to look at the acquisition of a leading football team by a leading pay-television broadcaster.

Relationships between media groups and leading sports clubs have

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ASHLEY COOMBES



Emily Watson yesterday at the premiere of *Hilary and Jackie* at the Venice Film Festival

Actress suffers for art of du Pré

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN VENICE

THE actress who plays Jacqueline du Pré in a new film about the cellist practised so hard to perfect her technique on the instrument that her fingers bled.

But despite playing 15 different tunes in close-up on camera, Emily Watson never learnt to read music and instead developed her own code, spending nine hours a day in the rehearsal room.

Hilary and Jackie, which focuses on the relationship of du Pré and her sister, received its premiere yesterday at the Venice Film Festival.

The makers are now waiting to see if the cellist's husband, the pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, will use privacy laws to block the film in France.

Barenboim, whom Miss du Pré married in 1967, has refused to comment on the book or the film. But he told *The Times*: "Couldn't they have waited until I was dead?"

Du Pré died in 1987 at the age of 42 from multiple sclerosis. Ms Watson, who took up the cello briefly as a 14-year-old, watched film of du Pré's performances. "She was so in tune with the music, she played with her whole body," the actress said.

RICHARD BRANSON

Tears as I sold Virgin Music

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Swissair jet's 'black box' found

Investigators have located the flight data and voice recorders of Swiss Air Flight 111 which went down off the coast of Nova Scotia last week.

The box containing the two recorders emitted a 'ping' sound that was picked up by the navy submarine HMCS *Okanagan* in 190ft of water about five miles off the village of Peggy's Cove.

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Blairite group seeks vote on Do we want King Charles?

BY OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOWNING Street sought to distance itself last night from proposals for a radical shake-up of the monarchy drawn up by an influential new Labour think-tank.

The report from Demos, founded by Geoff Mulgan, a member of the No 10 Policy Unit, calls for the Queen to be stripped of her political powers and for the public to be allowed to vote on whether the Prince of Wales should inherit the Throne.

The document coincides with a MORI poll for Demos and *The Independent on Sunday* which showed that 60 per cent of people thought the monarchy should be modernised and that 49 per cent believed the Queen should give up her right to dissolve Parliament.

It also came as the Treasury confirmed that it will open negotiations next year with Buckingham Palace for a review of royal finances. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, believes the present 7.5 per cent annual increase is too generous and wants to bring it down to the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

The Demos report, *Modernising the Monarchy*, does not propose the abolition of the monarchy, but recommends that on the death of the Sovereign there should be a referendum on whether the heir should succeed to the Throne. If the answer were no, there should be a second vote on whether the monarchy should be abolished.

The Speaker of the House of Commons would take over responsibility for appointing the Prime Minister and the formal dissolution of Parliament. Royal Assent for Parliamentary legislation would also be replaced by a certificate signed by the Speaker.

In addition, the paper proposes that the Church should be separated from the monarch, that the Royal Family should use state schools and NHS hospitals.

However, Downing Street said it did not agree with the proposals and was happy with the present monarchy. "The report has nothing to do with the Government and doesn't reflect Government views," a spokesman said.

Mark Leonard, the report's co-author, said that the paper was written to influence the Royal Family rather than the Government, though he hoped both would study it seriously.

Buckingham Palace called the report "another contribution to the general constitutional debate", but said it was a matter for Parliament rather than the Royal Family.



Tim Hames, page 20

Patten has eyes on Westminster again

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS PATTEN declared yesterday that he would be open to offers to make a comeback as an MP next year.

The former Governor of Hong Kong made clear that he would be busy reforming the Royal Ulster Constabulary for the next nine months, but that he did not rule out a return to Parliament if a by-election arose later next year.

Asked on BBC 1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme what he would do if a constituency whose MP was about to stand down offered him a seat with a 20,000 majority, Mr Patten said: "I'd say it is extremely kind of you to have called, please call back next July ... or a bit later."

The pro-European former Tory chairman has been tipped as Mayor of London and as a European commissioner, but in a newspaper interview this weekend he said: "I'm certainly not too grand to be a constituency MP." And he admitted that he had missed the political argument at Westminster since losing his seat in 1992.

He insisted that he had not made up his mind what he would do next, but would consider another job in public service "because those are the most interesting jobs around" — although he conceded this was more difficult with his party was in opposition.

He praised Willian Hague for his performances in the Commons and said that he was right to make party reforms as his priority. But he gave a warning that continual party disunity over Europe would play into Tony Blair's hands.

He suggested that Mr Hague should follow Harold Wilson's example on the Common Market in the 1970s by allowing party members to campaign as they wished in a public referendum on a single currency, provided they backed party policy at the general election.

Mr Patten's comments on Europe coincided with reports that Mr Hague is planning a snap referendum of party members on the single currency if pro-European MPs try to cause trouble at the Tory conference next month.

Unions will ask Blair to set up jobs task force

Jill Sherman and Christine Buckley on the plans to hold Downing Street talks

TRADE union leaders will today put further pressure on the Prime Minister to help industry and protect jobs amid growing uncertainty in the economy.

At a meeting at Downing Street, John Monks, TUC General Secretary, and other union leaders will ask Tony Blair to set up a tri-partite task force to avert further job losses. They will also ask for money set aside for capital spending to be pumped into road building and other services for industry.

Union leaders want action too on interest rates and are concerned that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets rates, focuses too narrowly on inflation. They want its remit to include growth and employment. Their call comes after Fujitsu last week closed its microchip factory in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency and after a series of job losses and manufacturing plant closures.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, also admitted yesterday that the growing world economic crisis could cause problems for the Government's flagship Welfare to Work programme. He insisted that the recent threats of factory closures had not resulted from Labour's economic policy, but because of the slump in world markets.

"Welfare to Work has a bigger challenge as the economy tightens," Mr Blunkett told Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. The project would be "more difficult" in the present climate, he indicated.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, will urge Mr Blair to set up a body made up of unions, employers and Government ministers to be launched following a series of job cuts. The task force would cover inward investment, regional development, lifelong learning and skills training to provide a co-ordinated approach to manufacturing, according to Mr Lyons.

"The rapidly developing world economic crisis is wreaking havoc on our manufacturing industry," Mr Lyons said yesterday. "It is vital that our manufacturing base is preserved in an increasingly competitive global environment. We must do whatever we can domestically and on the world and European stage to tackle the problems being faced by manufacturers."

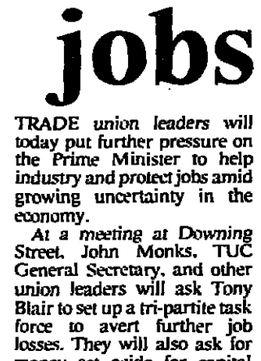
Although Downing Street officials played down the meeting, claiming it had been scheduled for months, John Monks stressed that early action had to be taken on the strong pound. Blaming the high pound and soaring interest rates for the difficulties in the manufacturing sector, Mr Monks said: "We think the high value of the pound is where the government needs to concentrate." That meant joining the European single currency "earlier rather than later".

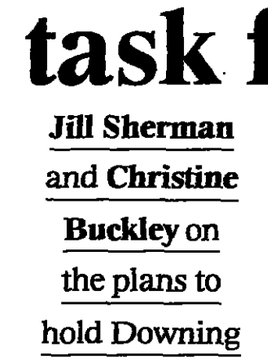
John Redwood, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, claimed the Government's economic policies were going to demolish British manufacturing. "In one short year, Labour have changed the UK from the first choice for investment from most global companies into their first choice for factory closures," he said.

Downing Street offered little hope of a shift in Government policy. "Clearly the Prime Minister is going to be very interested in what they have to say," said a spokesman. " We hear what they say about interest rates and the value of the pound, but the Government remains completely committed to its economic policy of building stability for the long term. It would be completely the wrong thing to do to embark on any short term fixes now."

The Government will face further calls for action at the TUC's annual congress in Blackpool next week with warnings over the economy and public sector pay. It will urge improved pay levels for public-sector workers in order to take them out of a "second-class" status.

Mr Blair is to attend the TUC's annual dinner at the congress, adding to the large numbers of government ministers attending the gathering. The Prime Minister is expected to receive a warmer reception than he got last year when his tough-talking speech angered many delegates who had hoped for more from a Labour government. Mr Monks said the messages at last year's conference were "unfriendly and negative".





John Monks and Tony Blair: the TUC chief will ask the Prime Minister for more spending on industry



David McLetchie with Tory party workers in Edinburgh

By Shirley English
Scotland Correspondent

New Scots Tory leader vows to defend union

THE right-wing Edinburgh lawyer elected leader of the Scottish Tories yesterday pledged to make his party an "anchor for the union" in the Scottish parliament.

David McLetchie, 46, had been expected to win easily over his rival Phil Gallie, 59, the doughty and populist former MP for Ayr. But the result was much closer than predicted, with Mr McLetchie taking 91 votes against Mr Gallie's 83.

It is the first time that the Scottish party has chosen its leader under structural reforms introduced earlier this year. Mr McLetchie will be interim group leader until after next May's Scottish elections. He will then face a further leadership ballot of members of the Scottish parliament.

William Hague, the Tory leader, said yesterday that he was "delighted that a man of David McLetchie's calibre" had been chosen. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish party president and former Foreign Secretary, who could not be persuaded to stand for the leadership, said Mr McLetchie was an "articulate and thoughtful" man.

Yesterday the party's rank and file denied that the closeness of the vote was evidence of a split. Both men are on the right. Sources said that it came down to a matter of style. Mr Gallie is admired for his street-fighting qualities and populist views, which he readily airs to the media on a variety of topics.

Mr McLetchie is a virtual unknown to the electorate, having stood in an election only once, against Robin Cook in Edinburgh Central in 1979. He is viewed as a creative thinker and is involved with Sir Malcolm's policy commission. He said that over the next eight months the Tories would be campaigning on three major themes: defence of the union, low taxes and rural regeneration.

He wanted to convince the electorate that the Tories were the party committed to making the parliament work in the context of the union. "When the economy is dipping into recession and jobs are being lost on a daily basis, the last thing Scotland needs is constitutional turmoil."

IRA weapons remain key to peace

Trimble is ready to meet Adams but will only shake his hand after disarmament, writes Martin Fletcher

DAVID TRIMBLE will talk directly to Gerry Adams for the first time today, and the first terrorist prisoners may be released from the Maze, but for all the euphoria of President Clinton's visit it was clear last night that the key issue of IRA disarmament has yet to be surmounted.

A riot by hundreds of loyalists in Portadown further dampened the general sense of optimism. One policeman, the father of a 10-week-old baby, suffered horrific head injuries from a blast bomb. Another policeman was in hospital with leg injuries, and a Catholic-owned bed shop was destroyed by petrol bombs.

Omagh experienced fresh terror when police received a hoax bomb warning, forcing them to evacuate the three main churches during their morning service. On Saturday, the bomb claimed its 29th victim when Sean McGrath, 61, died in in hospital.

Mr Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, said he believed IRA disarmament would now happen, but Mr Adams flatly rejected Mr Trimble's insistence that it must actually begin before Sinn Fein can join Northern Ireland's executive this winter.

"We are doing our best," said Mr Adams, who denies he speaks for the IRA. "We will use our influence positively. But to say, as some have, there can be no executive, no institutions, no structures unless we deliver decommissioning — that's not in the agreement. Nor is it something which Sinn Fein can deliver."

Mr Trimble also said he would refuse to shake Mr Adams's hand because people traditionally shook hands to show they were unarmed. "Mr Adams can't do that because he's got three tonnes of semtex, five or six hundred AK47s and heaven knows what else in his hand so it's not a friendly hand."

Mr Trimble will include Mr Adams in a briefing for all party leaders at Stormont today on the province's assessment proved its commitment to peaceful means through decommissioning. He had pushed his own party so far that if he entered government with Sinn Fein without prior decommissioning he would "fall off the edge", he told *The Observer*.

Mr Adams welcomed Mr Trimble's decision to open a dialogue, but insisted the agreement imposed no preconditions on any party with a popular mandate from joining the executive. To make decommissioning a precondition was a "clear breach of the spirit and letter of the agreement".

Sinn Fein won a record 17.6 per cent of the vote in last June's assembly elections, entitling it to two seats. The agreement sets no date for disarmament to start, but requires its completion by May, 2000. However, the IRA rejected disarmament in a statement last week.

Families' plea for return of terror victims' bodies

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

AS the Government prepares to release the first IRA prisoners from the Maze this week the mothers, wives and sisters of four men allegedly executed by the IRA during the Troubles will today make an unprecedented public appeal for the return of their bodies.

At a joint press conference in Belfast's city hall, the women will implore the IRA or anyone else who knows where the so-called "disappeared" are buried to end their torment by calling a confidential telephone line.

"We don't want any punishments, any revenge, any prisoners. We are not looking for anything except the whereabouts of our loved ones. We just want to give them a Christian burial and have a grave to go to," said Margaret McKinney, a West Belfast woman whose 22-year-old son, Brian, was abducted 20 years ago last May. "If the prisoners are coming out I think the bodies of our loves ones should be released too."

"These families have been through hell," said Sandra Peake, co-ordinator of the victims support group Wave which is helping the women organise their press conference. "It's not a political issue. It's a human rights issue. It's about giving these families the right to have a Christian burial for their loved ones and putting them to rest. There's been no peace for these families and won't be till these bodies are returned. It should have been measure for measure. If the prisoners are getting out, it should have been at the same time that the bodies were released."

Last week the IRA issued a statement acknowledging the families' "incalculable anguish" and claiming to have set up a unit last autumn to locate the graves, though it denied responsibility for some of the dozen names customarily listed as "disappeared".

A senior republican source has told *The Times* to expect announcements on seven of the "disappeared", but the women fear the IRA's statement was a publicity stunt before President Clinton's visit. "It's so distressing," Mrs McKinney said. "What's keeping them? With all this talk of releasing bodies, why don't they just say where they are if they know, and if they don't stop keeping us on tenterhooks?"

Mrs McKinney will be joined this morning by two of her daughters and close relatives of three other men who vanished during the Troubles — John McClory, Charles Armstrong and Gerald Evans.

Mr Evans was 24 and unemployed when he vanished on the night of March 27, 1979. He was last seen hitch-hiking from a dance in Castleblayney to his home in Crossmaglen in republican South Armagh. His mother, Mary, never heard anything more of him. "I never gave up hope, but after 19 years it's very hard," she said.

Mr Armstrong, who was 56 and a former government employee, vanished as he drove to Mass in Crossmaglen one August morning in 1981. His car was found ten miles away in Dundalk, Co Louth, the next evening. The IRA denied responsibility and to this day his wife, Kathleen, has not the slightest idea what happened to him. "I was always hoping he went away of his own accord and would come home, but no-one ever saw him about," she said. The couple had five children, the youngest 15 when their father disappeared.

MOTHERS WHO WAIT

FOR years after Mary McClory's 18-year-old son John disappeared in 1978 she would approach tall men with long black hair and moustaches who looked like him, and have to apologise when they turned out to be someone else.

Though newly widowed with seven other children, she kept John's room ready and once a year she washed and pressed his clothes until finally she gave them to charity. She now accepts that he is dead. "All I want is to get his body back for a Christian funeral," she said. "It would really content me to know I had his body."

Margaret McKinney's 22-year-old son Brian, a friend of John's, disappeared at the same time. She too kept his room ready, hoping against hope, until her husband and other son eventually packed up his belongings and took them away. "I knew from the beginning that he was dead," Mrs McKinney now says.

Brian and John were both intercepted and abducted as they walked to their labourers' jobs. Nothing more was heard of them for 19 years.

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Man Utd negotiations continue

Continued from page 1

been established in other countries. In America, Mr Murdoch — chairman of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times* and 40 per cent stake-holder in BSkyB — owns the LA Dodgers baseball team through his Fox TV Network; in Italy Silvio Berlusconi, the broadcaster, owns AC Milan; and in France Canal +, the pay-TV broadcaster, owns Paris St Germain.

Talks have been going on between Mark Booth, chief executive of BSkyB, and Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, for five months, although the Manchester United board was not told until the beginning of last month. The proposal, which has not yet got the status of a formal bid, is that BSkyB — whose other main shareholders are the Chargeurs transport and communications group of France, and Granada — would pay about 225p a share compared with Friday's closing price of 159p. The aim is to have a formal offer to put to the boards of both companies by the middle of this week.

Although Marathon Asset Management has a 5.6 per cent stake in the club and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority has 3.8 per cent, the rest of the shares are widely spread among more than 21,000 investors, many of them fans.

Andy Walsh, of the Manchester United Independent Supporters Association, said it was by no means certain that BSkyB would be able to gain control of the club. "Supporters will demand that anybody who has a controlling stake must put the interests of the club and football as paramount."

Last night David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat trade and industry spokesman, called on the Government to order an investigation of any deal.



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Earl suspended by Tory party after drug deal claims

Film and scooter-loving peer alleged to have arranged cocaine sale during House of Lords debate, reports Daniel McGrory

TORY peers are threatening to expel the Earl of Hardwicke from their party after allegations that he dealt drugs inside the Houses of Parliament.

He is alleged to have arranged the sale of cocaine costing £320 in the Lords when peers were recalled last week to debate anti-terrorism legislation after the Omagh bomb.

Party leaders moved swiftly yesterday to deal with the accusation, saying that Lord Hardwicke would be the first to be dealt with by the party's new Ethics and Integrity Committee, created by William Hague to rid the Tories of sleaze. The committee, which has the power to throw Lord Hardwicke out of the party, will meet later this week and he will be asked to go before the committee.

Viscount Cranborne, Tory Leader of the Lords, spoke to Lord Harwdicke yesterday and decided he should have the whip suspended immediately. One senior party source said: "Viscount Cranborne gave him a chance to defend himself and clear his name. You can take it that he hasn't justified his position at all and such behaviour will not be tolerated.

"He can expect no sympathy from anyone in this party if these allegations are proven and he will be expelled, the ultimate sanction."

Lord Hardwicke was the youngest hereditary peer when he took his seat five years ago at 22, but has boasted that he takes little part in



Coat of arms of the Earl of Hardwicke, created 1754

Lords business. He is alleged to have used the Palace of Westminster as a venue to broker drug deals and was quoted as telling an undercover reporter that he and his business partner were "the best dealers in the world".

Leading Conservatives recognise that the damaging publicity surrounding Lord Hardwicke does little for their arguments to retain hereditary peers. "The public will get the view that hereditary peers are just wasters and this is how they behave so why not get rid of the lot of them," the source said. "He has damaged his party."

A Conservative Party spokesman said last night: "The party has a robust anti-drugs policy and we condemn drug-dealing in all forms. We are immediately investigating this matter and swift action will be taken."

Joseph Phillip Sebastian Yorke was two years old when his father, Viscount Royston, died and a year later he inherited the peerage from his grandfather, becoming the 10th earl. He confesses to having no interest in politics and only agreed to take his seat in the Lords at the request of his cousin, Lord Hesketh, a former Tory Chief Whip.

After allegedly discussing a drug deal with an undercover reporter as fellow peers walked into the Chamber to join the anti-terrorist debate, Lord Hardwicke said that he could not be bothered to vote on the Bill.

Described as "arrogant and aloof", he has made only one speech in the Lords. It was about the British film industry and he said that he "hated" the experience because he found public speaking "boring".

Lord Hardwicke is known as "Lord Scooty" because of his passion for motor scooters. With a friend, Stefan Thwaites, he runs a business in South London selling the machines. Both men were alleged to be involved in drug dealing.

His only role within the Tory ranks is to sit on two all-party committees — on film and on motor scooters — though he rarely bothers to attend meetings. He does, though, appear at the Lords twice a week — so that he can collect £140 attendance fees, he said.

His family once owned extensive lands in Cambridgeshire but the 5th earl gambled away the family fortune. Lord Hardwicke lives in a modest flat in West London. He was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Police said that they had not received a formal complaint so they had not started an investigation. The *News of the World* yesterday alleged that Lord Hardwicke had sold six grams of cocaine and had boasted of using the drug himself.

The 10th earl was brought up on Mustique, the Caribbean island beloved of Princess Margaret, after his mother scandalised London society by running off there in 1975 to live with a bar owner. He was sent to Marlborough and worked in the record industry and briefly as a political lobbyist.

ALAN DAVIDSON



The 10th earl on the town with a friend. He lives in a modest home and runs a motor-scooter shop

Riviera resort plan for Forth coastline

BY LEWIS SMITH

MORE than 4,000 jobs could be created if a venture to turn a Scottish industrial wasteland into a Mediterranean-style coastal resort goes ahead.

Dilapidated warehouses and disused factories along the shores of the Firth of Forth would be torn down and replaced with waterfront shops, houses, hotels and leisure facilities.

A network of boardwalks would link settlements along the shore and contractors would create beaches with millions of tons of sand pumped from the sea bed.

Elizabeth Maginnis, a Granton councillor and one of the leading forces behind the scheme, said the inspiration came from seeing the spectacular redevelopment of Barcelona's seafront.

"When I was out in Barcelona 12 years ago, one of the features of the trip was was a tour around Barcelona harbour and it was just as bad as Leith docks," she said.

"Barcelona then got a European grant to upgrade its harbour and since then it has gone from strength to strength. This appealed very strongly to me and I had a vision for Edinburgh's waterfront, to create a new quarter and give it a distinct character, like Barcelona.

"We want a place where people can visit and enjoy themselves. The coastline is virtually derelict at the moment but within the next 15 to 20 years, the regeneration will have helped to give our shores their own distinctive appeal. This will provide a fantastic opportunity to tranform north Edinburgh into a thriving, cosmopolitan community."

Plans have been drawn up by a development partnership of Edinburgh City Council, Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise, Scottish Homes, Forth Ports and private sector bodies.

Backers of the scheme say redeveloping the coastline from Cramond to Portobello would bring more than 4,000 jobs to the capital, providing a major economic boost for the city. Details of the proposed regeneration are due to be unveiled by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, later this month.

It is believed tens of millions of pounds have been earmarked for the scheme while £35 million has already been spend buying up land.

Malcolm Chisholm, MP for Leith, said the most important aspect of the plan was the number of jobs it would create. He said: "People recognise that this scheme is a great asset and the input of the local community has been at the forefront in drawing up plans for the developments.

"This is a very exciting project which will provide a tremendous boost for the Edinburgh economy."

Murdered girl's stepfather killed

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE family of a seven-year-old girl who was found strangled in woods near her home in 1993 faced further turmoil after her uncle was charged with the murder of her stepfather.

Barry Queripel, 33, died at Royal Berkshire hospital in Reading after suffering severe chest wounds. His younger brother Andrew, 32, has been charged with his murder and is due to appear before magistrates in Bracknell today.

It is the second killing within the family in just five years. In 1993 Barry Queripel's stepdaughter, Stacey, was found strangled in bushes in South Hill Park, Bracknell. Police initially thought she had choked on the necklace she was wearing, but later opened a murder inquiry.

Her mother, Gilliane Queripel, was arrested twice during the inquiry, and at one time held in police custody for several days. She was later released without charge. The file on Stacey's murder has never been closed and the



Stacey Queripel: murder inquiry is still open

coroner who conducted the inquest into her death recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

Yesterday a Thames Valley Police spokesman said that Barry Queripel had been drinking and playing pool at a social club in Bracknell on Friday night. Officers were called early on Saturday morning after reports of a fight during which Mr Queripel was stabbed in the chest. He was taken to hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

Man was tortured then shot

A MAN who was shot dead in his living room by masked gunmen in front of his partner and her 15-year-old son was first tortured with a knife, it was disclosed yesterday.

Lee Harris, 30, who is believed to have been targeted by the gang of three men over a relationship with a woman, was repeatedly slashed before being shot six times at point-blank range.

The killing at his home on the Longmead Estate in Epsom, Surrey, on Friday night followed a warning to a cousin of the victim only hours earlier that he would die.

The 18-year-old cousin, who would not disclose her name, said: "This guy came up to me and told me that Lee was going to die. He had a lot of enemies, so I didn't take it too seriously."

A police spokesman said: "We are still searching for a motive to this attack."

French lorry drivers threaten more chaos on Europe's roads

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND LEWIS SMITH

DRIVERS have been warned of another "winter of discontent" on continental roads as French lorry drivers link up for the first time with their German, Spanish and Italian counterparts to blockade motorways, bridges and ports tomorrow.

The 24-hour drivers' strike, now an annual ordeal, is due to start at midnight tonight. It is being co-ordinated across Europe, but is most likely to affect traffic in France, with road blocks expected at Channel ports and French frontiers with Germany, Spain and Italy.

The Road Haulage Association has warned its members to anticipate lengthy delays in France, particularly at ports such as Calais where demonstrators are expected to erect "filter blockades", slowing traffic to a crawl.

Cars should be allowed through but are almost certain to be caught in long queues of traffic leading up to the filter. Lorry drivers face even longer delays as they are pulled aside by their French counterparts anxious to explain their cause. The length of each stoppage will vary at each filter.

The Department of Transport said yesterday it had been talking to French officials to express concerns about the action. A spokesman warned there were likely to be Governmental representations to the French authorities if British drivers suffer financial losses through the dispute.

Kent police were gearing up yesterday to cope with the expected queues of lorries trailing out of Dover. Operation Stack, which has been used in previous disputes, is designed to ensure thousands of lorries waiting for ferries to France are parked in an organised queue along the M20.

Inspector Caroline Riddle of Kent police said it was impossible to predict how badly the dispute would hit British drivers and holiday-makers. "Inevitably, there are going to be delays on this side of the Channel," she said.

Richard Bird, of the RAC, said drivers travelling to France should listen to media announcements before setting off. P&O Stena, the ferry company, is watching to see how the dispute develops before issuing advice to customers or rerouting services. A spokeswoman said it may be best to avoid areas likely to be affected by strikers.

The French drivers complain that employers have not honoured many concessions won after strikes in 1996 and 1997 almost paralysed the French road system. The truckers are demanding a limit of a 48-hour work week, tighter regulation of working hours and a European directive "taking account of demands in the road haulage sector".

British haulage groups have written to the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, and the European Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, urging new legislation that would require national governments to keep major routes open in the event of strikes.

"We have heard promises since 1996," Daniel Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association said. "This strike is a flexing of muscles by the French lorry drivers, but if the demands are not met, then action on a concerted scale is inevitable."

British lorry drivers suffered huge losses from the repeated strikes in France, and the promised compensation of at least £1 million, in many cases dating back to November 1996, has still not been paid. The French authorities did not break the barricades in the earlier disputes, and British haulage groups argue that if national governments fail to keep key transport arteries open they should be fined and the proceeds used to compensate hauliers.

The strike is supported by all the major French unions.

Shetland women rowers beat the Royal Navy's finest men

Dominic Kennedy reports on the result of a naval challenge to avenge a famous defeat in a 1905 race

WHEN the rugged women of the Shetland Islands challenged the men of the Royal Navy to a rowing race, history suggested that the ladies' team would be favourites.

Many islanders have never forgotten the glorious day in 1905 when a crew of women from the island of Trondra beat a navy whaler during a race in the port of Scalloway, the ancient capital of Shetland.

A chance for the Royal Navy to recover its honour came yesterday when the crew of the fishery protection vessel *HMS Shetland* picked up the gauntlet thrown down by teams of Shetlanders in Lerwick.

Blessed with today's superior training equipment, work-out techniques and knowledge of nutrition, the sailors were quietly confident, this time, that they could leave the Scottish women trailing.

The sturdiest men aboard *HMS Shetland* were chosen and repaired to the rowing machine in the ship's gymnasium for a vigorous bout of exercise to prepare for the race.

The challenge involved racing a measured mile in a traditional skiff or yoal, borrowed from the Lerwick Boating Club. The light rowing boat is clinker-built: made with external planks overlapping downwards and fastened with clenched copper nails. As a warm-up, the sailors were allowed to race against five crews of Shetland men. They finished last. Excitement grew as they prepared to do battle with the weaker sex. The Navy might have been less assured had they taken note of the chauvinist observations of the oil workers who are consigned to the wild islands for months on end. "In the Shetlands," the oilmen's saying goes, "the men are men, and so are the women."

Cheered on by their victorious menfolk, the ladies of Burra Isle crossed the finishing line in 9 minutes 42 seconds. Three more women's teams, from Whitedale, Bigton and Lerwick, also beat the sailors.

The shamefaced Navy took more than a minute longer than Burra Isle to complete the mile, huffing across the line, last again.

Sylvia Jameson, a petite member of the Burra Isle crew, said in the boating club bar afterwards: "It was easy. No problem. But they've taken it very well."

First Lieutenant Vince Noyce, one of the losers, said: "No excuses. It's a bloody hard sport, a lot harder than we expected. Somehow I don't think we'll be taking it up. The boating club have been very kind. They gave us a bottle of whisky as a consolation prize. We've all got terrible blisters but it was good fun, the highlight of our visit to Shetland."

He stopped short of admitting that the women were stronger. "Watching these ladies now, I can see it's all technique," Mr Noyce said. "We just didn't have it." None of the sailors, however, dared ask the women for an arm-wrestling contest.

So where were the ladies of Trondra, whose great-great-grandmothers had whipped the Navy when Hitler was a boy? They were still maintaining their fearsome traditions: they had gone down to London for the Thames rowing race at the weekend, winning their section and coming seventh overall.

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Gimme shelter: Mick Jagger at an open-air Rolling Stones concert in The Hague

Hawking condemns animal rights activists

Scientist says computers will never be powerful enough to replace live experiments, reports Nick Nuttall

STEPHEN HAWKING, the Nobel prize-winning scientist, has condemned activists who try to block experiments on animals. "Computers can do amazing things, but even the most powerful computers can't replace animal experiments in medical research," he said yesterday.

In a message to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting this week at Cardiff University, Professor Hawking said: "I think the fuss over the use of animals in medical research is ridiculous. Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which the majority of the population are happy to?

"I suspect that extremists turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past like nuclear disarmament."

The author of *A Brief History of Time* is a patron of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, a patients' charity set up to challenge the views of campaigners who claim medical testing on animals is unnecessary. Other patrons include Jane Asher, the actress, John Diamond, the *Times* columnist, Faith Brown, the comedienne, and Jonathan Miller, the director and scientist.

Professor Hawking, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, contributed to the debate on the value of animal experimentation.

The debate coincides with the retirement of Professor Colin Blakemore of Oxford University as president of the association. His arrival at the festival was delayed yesterday after activists targeted a cat farm at Hill Grove, near Witney, Oxfordshire, where animals are bred for experiments including ones carried out at Professor Blakemore's laboratory. The farm is near his home.



Hawking: "fuss over use of animals is ridiculous"

Professor Blakemore, who carries out pioneering research into the human nervous system and the brain, said the police had delayed him for an hour and were still there in the early evening.

He said: "This is because of splinter groups coming down and attacking my home. It has been 11 years now since I have been living with threats, letter bombs both real and fake, property damage, five cars badly damaged, threats against my kids, death threats against my wife and my secretary, having my hands cut by razor blades in envelopes. It is unbelievable pressure."

He said that his laboratory used about six kittens a year from the farm in experiments aimed at unravelling diseases in humans including deafness and blindness. This was, like laboratories across Britain, the lowest level yet. "They are used for studies of the cerebral cortex and a new technique for imaging the cerebral cortex. This is very closely linked with new brain imaging techniques in human beings," said Professor Blakemore.

He rejected claims that the experiments involved cruelty. "All the work is done on anaethatised animals. It is given a single injection and never wakes up."

Professor Blakemore said that rights groups wanted alternatives to animal experiments, and that they were developing these too. "I and many other people have put huge efforts into this in the last ten years, particularly tissue culture methods. I have not be unresponsive to campaigning, it makes us all aware that we need to reduce and refine techniques. But the public has to realise there are areas where there are no substitutes," he said.

Mike Baker, chief executive of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, claimed that alternatives to animal experiements existed but that these were "underfunded, underused and their implementation is blocked at every turn".

Andrew Blake, director and founder of Seriously Ill for Medical Research, last night condemned the violence and intimidation of Professor Blakemore and other scientists involved in animal experiments.

Mr Blake, who suffers from Friedreich's ataxia, a wasting disease, founded the group because he feared the activities of animal rights groups were threatening the future of medical research. It supports humane animal research into disabling diseases, incurable and progressive diseases. Two years ago, the charity called on animal rights campaigners to pledge never to undergo medical treatments that were developed with the help of animal research, such as blood transfusions and antibiotics.

Drinkers locked in over cat farm row

BY A CORRESPONDENT

DRINKERS enjoying a Sunday afternoon pint were locked into their local yesterday after an angry confrontation with animal rights activists.

Trouble flared when the regulars responded to loud chanting from protesters about Hill Grove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for scientific experiments.

Mounted police broke up the two groups and the landlord locked his drinkers inside the Windrush.

More than 600 people had travelled from all over the country to take part in the protest at the work done at Hill Grove Farm. The stand-off at the pub — 200 yards from the roadblock — is the latest incident between activists and locals annoyed at having their daily lives disrupted.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "We have arrested a total of nine men — two for obstruction, one for assault on police, one for affray, one for public order offences and four others for offences which were alleged to have happened at a previous demonstration at the cat farm last April. A woman has also been arrested for allegedly causing criminal damage today."

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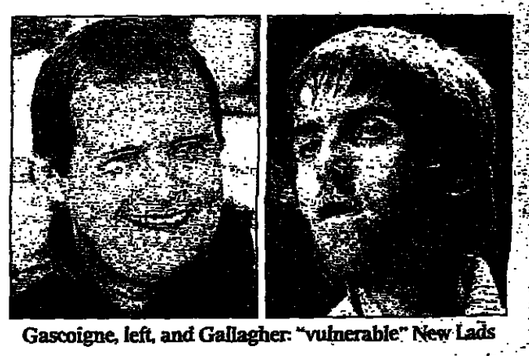
YOU PROMISE. WE DELIVER.

New Lads hide fears behind their beers

BY NICK NUTTALL

PAUL GASCOIGNE, Liam Gallagher and other New Lads of the 1990s may be far wimpier than their rougeish, beer-swilling, hedonistic images would suggest.

A sociologist will tell a scientific gathering this week that "new laddism" — the bibles of which are magazines such as *Loaded*, *FHM* and *Maxim* — is really a cover for a growing subculture of men who feel impotent in the face of rapid economic and social upheavals.



Gascoigne, left, and Gallagher: "vulnerable" New Lads

Angus Bancroft, of Cardiff University, said: "The New Lad was supposed to be a tough, arrogant, sexy and self-reliant replacement for the effeminate New Man of the 1980s. He is supposed to enjoy football, drinking, is comfortable with soft porn. He is generally pleased with himself but dignified by ironic awareness of his clownish nature."

But Mr Bancroft will tell the British Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting on Thursday that the New Lad is really "a bit of a weed. He seems curiously out of his depth in the midst of the rapid changes affecting society at every level," he said.

Mr Bancroft, from the university's School of Social and Administrative Studies, said history was littered with examples of "new laddishness".

"Gangs of young aristocratic men wandered the streets of Ancient Rome at night on rampages of drink and violence," he said. "What is new is that these things were seen in the past as phases in a young man's life which he would grow out of. The New Lad is a broad shift in male behaviour across the social classes."

He said Gascoigne and Gallagher were perfect examples of "vulnerable man-child" figures unprepared to take responsibility for their actions.

Mr Bancroft said the Government and Tony Blair had to shoulder some responsibility for the cult of laddishness by encouraging emotional populism, which led to infantile behaviour in young adults, who carry it on into middle age.

"To understand laddishness I have put it in context with increased infantilism at all levels of British society, the search for instant satisfaction and the rejection of responsibility, social or personal," he said.

Men are also becoming marginalised by women with male unemployment exceeding female unemployment and girls beating boys at examinations.

"The emotional populism of the government and the media and touchy-feely Britain conspire to suggest that the 1990s is the women's decade. Men, especially young men, are being regarded as a problem," Mr Bancroft said.

"It is not a triumph for feminism, because women do not have anything to gain if men increasingly retreat into a world which celebrates narcissism of the beer belly."

Mr Bancroft said New Lads should not be seen as a witty or ironic challenge to political correctness, as some have suggested. "It is an attempt to avoid the challenges of an evolving society," he said.

Squire's diaries of 200 years ago help weather scientists

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE dusty diaries of a Rutland squire who lived more than 200 years ago will help to refine supercomputer weather models trying to predict the impact of global warming.

Professor Trevor Davies, of the University of East Anglia in Norwich, said yesterday: "We want to know if the variability and extreme weather of recent years is unusual or not. To do this we really need around 200 to 300 years of weather data, which is where the diaries come in." Official national weather records, which began in the 1860s in Britain, were too short.

Scientists have traced diaries and records by enthusiastic amateurs across Europe stretching back to about 1675. But the jewel is considered to be the diary of Thomas Barker, a landowner who lived at Lyndon Hall, Rutland.

John Kington, a visiting fellow at the university's climatic research unit who has spent several years researching the life and diaries of Squire Barker, brother-in-law of the naturalist Gilbert White, said that Barker was interested in farming and bee keeping and wrote on theology. "But it is his weather diaries which are such marvellous records. He started out at about the age of 11 in the 1730s and continued until the 1790s."

The squire was meticulous, using barometers and thermometers to record pressure and temperature every morning and afternoon along with details of cloud formation, rainfall, wind speeds and other weather observations.

The Barker diaries chronicle the little ice age that covered Europe during the late 18th century, when winter temperatures averaged 3C (37F) and persisted from December to early April in some years.

Professor Davies said that such curious weather records were now helping researchers to discover whether past centuries were plagued with extreme weather or was relatively stable.

Forecast, page 24

Ecstasy is suspected as boy dies near club

A BOY of 16 was found dead outside an all-night dance club yesterday after apparently taking Ecstasy.

The teenager from Gateshead had been led to a bench outside the After Dark club in South Shields, South Tyneside, by bouncers after feeling unwell. He had been out with a group of friends.

Witnesses told police and ambulance staff that they believed he had taken Ecstasy. Another reveller saw the boy unconscious on the bench where he had been left earlier by doormen.

An ambulance was called at 7.30am but the boy was dead on arrival at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Detective Inspector William Sproates said: "It is a really terrible tragedy for a young lad to die in that way. We are waiting for toxicology reports to establish exactly what was in his body at the time. There was no alcohol on sale at the club, only water and soft drinks, but people have told us that his speech was slurred and he was at times becoming incoherent."

THE TIMES MONDA

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Man Utd deal sure to attract close scrutiny on fair trading

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

IF Manchester United Football Club were bought by British Sky Broadcasting, the deal would be closely scrutinised by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that it would expect the OFT to examine any deal to ensure there were no implications that might infringe competition. It would be up to the OFT to look into any deal, and pass its recommendation to Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who has the final say on whether acquisitions are referred to the Monopoly and Mergers Commission for a formal investigation.

The OFT's normal criteria for investigating a deal are that it creates a player with a 25 per cent market share or that it involves companies with £70 million in assets worldwide. Both Manchester United and BSkyB — a company in which News International, parent group of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — easily cross the asset threshold.

Market share is a more difficult question. Manchester United, despite its pulling power, footballing record and profitability, is still only one of 20 clubs in the FA Premier League, each of which has one vote. With BSkyB it depends on how the market is defined. The company is dominant in the pay-television market but much less so in the television market overall.

However, the OFT will almost certainly want to look at the implications of a major force in pay-television sports rights taking over what is an influential, if only partial, owner of such rights.

A much larger issue of how television rights in the UK should be sold is due to come to a head in January in the Restrictive Practices Court. One of the first things John Bridgeman did when taking over as Director-General of Fair Trading in 1995 was to refer to the court the Premier League's agreement with BSkyB and the BBC on the rights to broadcast matches.

The OFT argues that the deal, which runs until 2001, is a cartel that operates against the interests of individual clubs and the public because it is negotiated collectively. The case is expected to last for three or four months. If the Restrictive Practices Court rules against BSkyB's agreement with the Premier League, it has the power to strike out the deal and prevent any such collective agreement being entered into again. Television rights would then have to be negotiated on a club-by-club basis, with perhaps the home club owning the television rights to any fixture.

The League and BSkyB will argue that chaos could ensue, and that US sports leagues have specific exemption from anti-trust legislation.

Lawyers for BSkyB and Manchester United are convinced that no serious competition issues would be raised by a deal. All existing agreements would be honoured. *Sky Sports would still show 60* live games a season with the *obligation to show each club at* least three times. The existing *criteria for selecting the game* to broadcast live would continue. *The club's management* would also remain in place, if *they chose to.*

Even if the deal were *referred to the Monopolies and* Mergers Commission, BSkyB *would remain committed to* arguing the case for approval, *which ultimately rests with* the DTI Secretary.

Oliver Holt, page 28
Business, page 48

BRUSSELS SEES NO OBJECTION

THE European Union's competition authority is unlikely to object to the acquisition of Manchester United by BSkyB (Charles Bremner writes).

Officials said yesterday that, because Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of BSkyB, did not already own a European football team, they would not be concerned. "He can do whatever he likes. I don't think we will look at this at all," said an official from the Brussels competition directorate.

Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, has been waging an aggressive campaign against what he sees as closed practices and abuse of dominant position in the sports world, but, on the face of it, BSkyB's purchase of a single team would not come under these headings, officials said. "If he [Mr Murdoch] bought more than one club that would be different," the official said. The issue of control of broadcasting rights did not, on first sight, seem relevant.

The only ground on which the Commission might be called in would be if Manchester United had an annual turnover of more than £170 million, with one third of it coming from outside the United Kingdom. Again, at first glance, that did not seem to apply, the officials said.

HOWARD BARLOW



Andy Walsh, chairman of Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, giving his view yesterday

Brand name set to make £100m

Adrian Lee reports on the massive business operation that adds up to the world's richest football club

MANCHESTER UNITED is the world's richest football club, making £1 million profit from every home game. This year, income is expected to exceed £100 million for the first time.

Much of it comes from gate receipts. The annual report for 1997 shows that fans paid £30 million to watch their team. The sale of shirts and souvenirs is worth £29 million a year to United, which receives another £12.6 million from television companies.

Shirt and other sponsorship brings in another £11 million and conference and catering at Old Trafford is worth £5.5 million. Programme sales alone are worth £1 million a year.

The 1997 balance sheet shows that Manchester United's income rose by 65 per cent on the previous year to £88 million, despite a wage bill of £22 million, which is easily the highest in the Premiership. The income of Newcastle United, the second biggest earner, is less than half that of the Manchester club.

The club's annual revenue is only slightly less than the combined income of two of Italy's leading clubs, Juventus and Inter Milan. Latest figures show the club bank account is also healthy, with cash reserves of £16.5 million and assets of £72.4 million.

Manchester United's success in nurturing its own players, such as Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes is a major factor. The purchases of the Dutch defender Jaap Stam for £10.6 million and the Aston Villa forward Dwight Yorke for £12.6 million are not included in the latest accounts. The pre-tax profit made by Manchester United for the 1996-97 season (the most recent declared) was £27.5 million.

United's success is the clearest indicator of the growing gap between football's haves and have-nots. On a single match day, the club generates more income than 22 of the 92 league clubs do in an entire season.

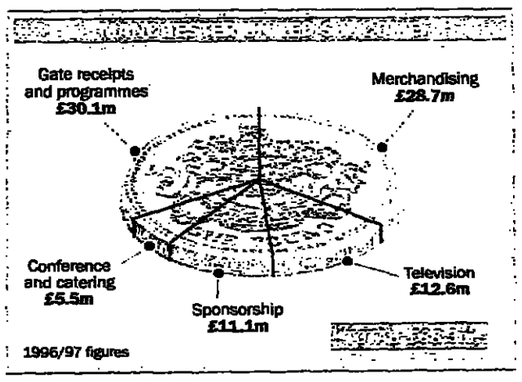
Manchester United first joined the stock market in 1991, when it was valued at £47 million. In July it opened a savings account for fans, which could make the club more than £100,000 a year.

Britannia will pay Manchester United 1 per cent of the total saved in the club's building society accounts. It is also building its own four-star hotel with more than 100 rooms, and has a museum.

The name of Manchester United is one of the world's most famous brands. Although most of the club's home games are 55,000 sell-outs, the majority of the team's three million British supporters have never been to Old Trafford.

City analysts predict that Manchester United will continue to grow as the capacity at Old Trafford is increased to 67,000, television revenue rises and it is able to charge shirt and pitch-hoarding sponsors more.

Despite the club's failure to win a trophy last year, Collins Stewart, the stockbrokers, conclude: "Manchester United is a cash machine."



Murdoch has tight grip on American TV sports

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

IN FOUR years, Rupert Murdoch has spent prodigiously to make sports broadcasting the cornerstone of his American TV operation. In the process, he has outbid all rivals for American football's richest prize and bought outright one of the most famous teams in baseball. He also has interests in basketball and ice hockey teams.

Best known in the US as owner of Twentieth Century Fox and Fox Television, Mr Murdoch paid £2.75 billion four years ago to wrest broadcast rights to the National Football League from CBS. The move was followed this year by a renewal, for £11 billion for seven more years of NFL broadcast rights.

In March this year his £190 million bid for the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team was approved after a year of negotiation. One month later the Fox Group confirmed a deal to acquire 40 per cent of a new indoor sports stadium in central Los Angeles. The deal will bring Mr Murdoch a 10 per cent stake in the Lakers basketball team and leaves him poised to acquire a stake in the LA Kings ice hockey team.

Since buying the NFL national broadcast rights, he has also made two important deals for regional sports coverage. The first, a 50-50 joint venture with the Denver-based cable giant Tele-Communications, gave the Fox Group shared control of most US regional cable sports networks.

In a second deal, with Cablevision SystemsCorp, Mr Murdoch acquired a 20 per cent interest in Madison Square Garden, the renowned New York venue, and in two teams that play there — the New York Knicks basketball team and the Rangers, an ice-hockey team.

Murdoch channels now own rights to every major league team in New York that appears on cable, including the Yankees and the Mets — the only baseball teams to rival the Dodgers for name-recognition.

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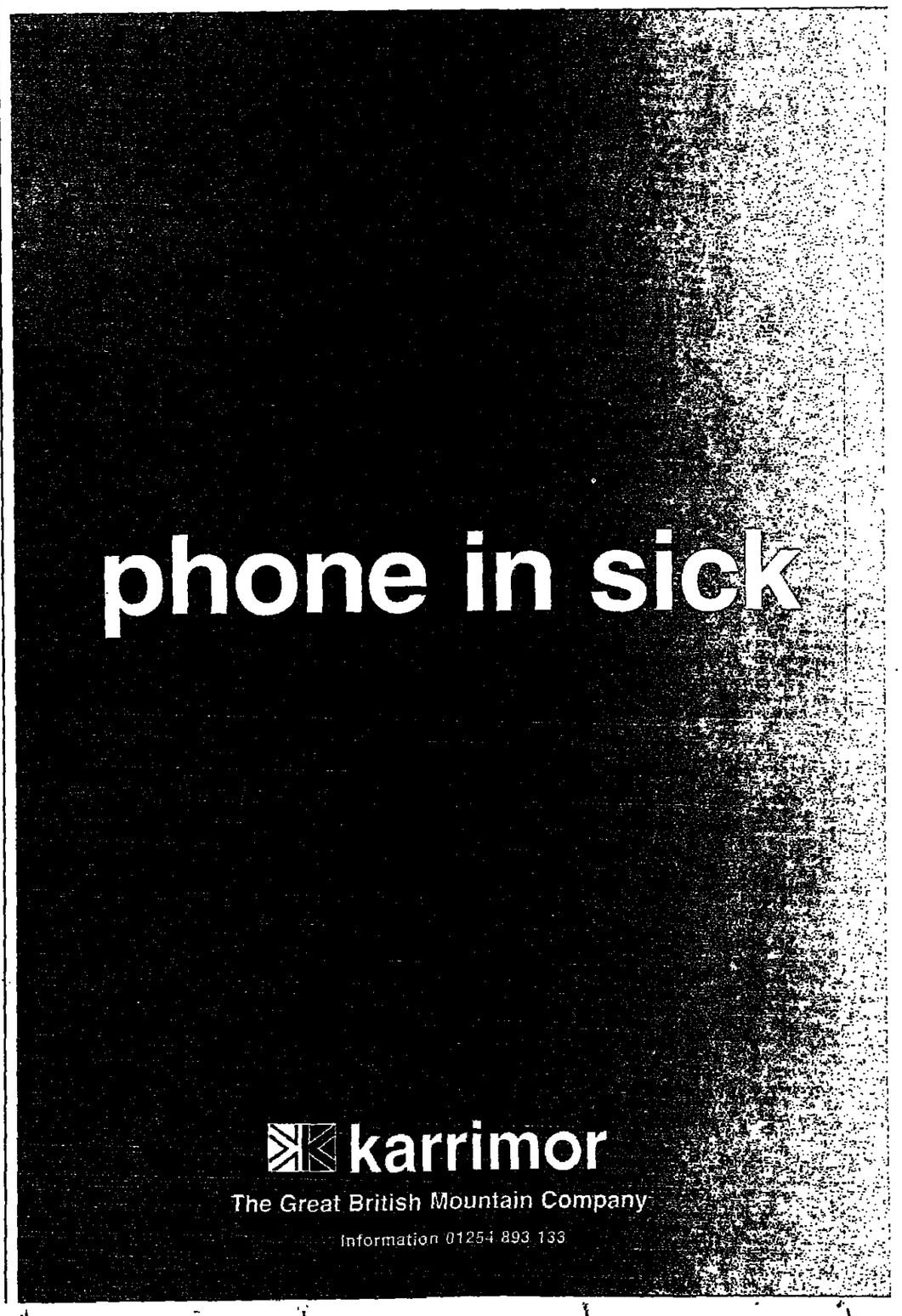
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Police watchdog gives warning on CS spray

Forces urged to address public fears as figures show 10,000 incidents in past 2½ years, writes **Richard Ford**

THE Police Complaints Authority has given warning of a backlash against the use of CS spray, after judges' criticisms over its misuse and growing *public concern about its* effects.

Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the authority, said that police forces should monitor the use of the spray closely and ensure that it was not used simply to make an easy arrest. His warning came as figures compiled by *The Times* show that the spray has been used more than 10,000 times since it was first deployed on the the streets as part of police equipment.

Police scientists are already carrying out research to find a replacement for the solvent used in police CS sprays. It is the solvent that can cause skin blistering, reddening and pain in the eyes.

Mr Moorhouse said that police forces should address the public's concern over the small number of cases in which it appeared that the spray had not been used properly. "It is an extremely valuable piece of equipment for the use of officers, but things like tear gas have not been traditional in the British policing system and, therefore, there is understandably an emotional response at its use," he said.

"They [the police] have to be very careful in using it only where necessary and in accordance with guidelines, otherwise they will alienate the public. I do not mean the criminal public, I mean the general public."

Mr Moorhouse said that, in spite of complaints, he did not think the public was losing confidence in the use of CS spray. But he said that a series of stories in the media that showed an inappropriate use of the spray had threatened to undermine confidence. "If these stories continue to build up, they will present an image of the use of CS spray that may not be the accurate image, but it will build up a perception of its misuse."

More than 250 complaints concerning the use of the spray were made in the year 1997-98. Between April 1996 to the end of March this year, there were two cases in which police officers were prosecuted for misuse of the spray. In both cases they were found not guilty.

The figures on the use of the spray show wide variations in the average number of times it was used per month, with the West Midlands force topping the list at 62 a month followed by Essex at 52, and Greater Manchester 41. But police say that the spray is now acting as a deterrent, with people involved in incidents asking if officers have the spray and then calming down.

The Police Complaints Authority's concern follows the latest criticism by a judge over the way in which officers used the spray in Bedfordshire. Judge Daniel Rodwell strongly criticised a police officer for unlawfully assaulting a teenager involved in an incident outside an off-licence in Dunstable.

He said PC John Heath had single-handedly managed to convert a drunken incident into a riot by not inquiring what was going on, using physical force and the "totally inappropriate use of CS gas".

Judge Rodwell said CS spray could be used by the police only in self-defence in the face of an actual attack and was a weapon, not a containment device, as believed by PC Heath. "We would also like to make the point that, on the evidence we have heard, police officers were lamentably vague as to the training that they had received in the use of CS gas.

"It is perfectly clear that the traning must be more frequent and, second, it is equally clear that police officers must be trained quite unequivocally that they may use it in self-defence and for no other purpose. If they are not, then police are frequently going to find themselves in the situation where they are the perpetrators of unlawful assaults and possibly liable to prosecution".

The solvent in the spray is methyl iso-butyl ketone (MIBK), which causes discomfort to the skin because it does not evaporate instantly. The Police Scientific Department is currently carrying out research to find out whether a new solvent can be found that would prevent the reddening and blistering.

John Giffard, chairman of the self-defence, arrest and restraint sub-committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "There has been some criticism of the solution MIBK because of the temporary injury that it can cause. We want to see if we can develop something that improves safety."

Mr Giffard defended the use of CS spray since its introduction two and a half years ago. He said officers were reassured by having it as a piece of equipment and that there was some evidence that simply carrying it helped to defuse difficult situations.

He said that in his own force, Staffordshire, which started using the spray in July 1997, there had been only three complaints resulting from its use on 105 occasions. He said its use was leading to a reduction in assaults on police and, in Staffordshire, such incidents fell from 50 between April-May 1997 to 29 during the corresponding two those months of this year.



Moorhouse: he called for careful monitoring

HOW IT WORKS

CS is not a gas but a white crystalline solid dissolved in a solvent that evaporates when sprayed, leaving a fine dispersal of CS particles. When inhaled these irritate the sensory receptors in the skin, eyes and the linings of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts, making the eyes stream and causing other unpleasant sensations.

CS SPRAY USED BY THE POLICE

England and Wales

Force	Start	Used	Average per month
Avon and Somerset	3/97	179	12.79
Bedfordshire	4/97	200	11.76
Cambridgeshire	12/96	107	11.89
Cheshire	11/97	158	22.57
Cleveland	3/96	1,077	38.46
Cumbria	12/96	673	33.65
Derbyshire	6/97	179	11.93
Devon and Cornwall	No figures available		
Dorset	1/97	133	6.65
Durham	1/97	475	23.75
Dyfed-Powys	3/96	63	5.25
Essex	10/97	521	52.10
Gloucestershire	4/97	171	10.06
Greater Manchester	4/97	671	41.94
Gwent	4/98	36	7.20
Hampshire	1/98	307	17.87
Hertfordshire	4/98	74	14.80
Humberside	11/97	197	21.80
Kent	No figures available		
Lancashire	1/98	150	18.75
Leicestershire	8/96	110	9.17
Lincolnshire	11/97	100	
Metropolitan Police	8/96	653	29.68
City of London	6/98	0	0.00
Merseyside	3/96	1,077	38.46
Norfolk	12/97	90	10.00
Northamptonshire	No CS spray introduced		
Northumbria	1/97	660	55.00
North Yorkshire	12/96	230	12.78
North Wales	9/97	138	15.30
Nottinghamshire	No CS spray introduced		
South Yorkshire	3/98	60	10.00
South Wales	No figures available		
Staffordshire	7/97	105	10.50
Suffolk	11/97	160	16.00
Surrey	4/98	17	6.80
Sussex	No CS spray introduced		
Thames Valley	8/98	0	0.00
Warwickshire	No figures available		
West Mercia	1/96	76	12.67
West Midlands	11/97	438	62.57
West Yorkshire	3/96	743	25.60
Wiltshire	5/98	16	4.00

NOTE:
Figures are latest available. Some forces have not issued updated figures since earlier this year. The number of times cited in the report accounts figure each force could provide, and sometimes represents a limited or relevant period. Strathclyde and Tayside are the only Scottish regions to use CS Spray.
The rough average usage per month was obtained by dividing the number of times used, by the number of months that this figure covered (which varied for each force).
Table researched Sonny Bentas and Elizabeth Judge.

England fans fail to keep the peace

FROM RICHARD DUCE IN STOCKHOLM

AN ENGLAND football fan has been remanded in custody in Sweden after the trouble that caused thousands of pounds of damage on Saturday.

It was astonishing that no one was hurt when 30 panes of glass 80ft up in the Rasunda stadium in Stockholm were smashed and showered down as Swedish fans left at the end of England's 2-1 defeat in the European Championship qualification match. The shards of glass were followed by a steady rain of plastic chairs and a hot-dog stand.

Roy Hodgson, manager of Blackburn Rovers, who also watched the game, gazed at the destruction and said: "If you were a betting man, you'd have to put money on it being England fans."

Stockholm's police had kept England fans inside the ground to allow home supporters to leave and avoid clashes. A frustrated element among the 3,500 travelling fans — many fuelled by drink — began to break the windows before police eventually used tear gas to break up the crowd. No ban had been placed on the sale of alcohol and many England supporters could be seen drinking heavily before the game.

The incident marred a relatively peaceful operation for the 600 police. There were 24 arrests, 17 of them for drunkenness. Seven other supporters were also held after minor scuffles in the centre of Stockholm or for causing criminal damage. Most had been released yesterday, but Cameron Calhoun, 22, of West Drayton, West London, was remanded in custody until tomorrow. He denied a charge of riot.

Chief Inspector Ulf Göranzon, of Stockholm police, said: "It was a reasonably successful police operation. There was some minor fighting, but most of the English fans were very well-behaved."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is expected to hold a series of meetings over the next few months with the police's Football Intelligence Unit and the Football Association to seek new ways of stamping out English football hooliganism abroad. Convicted hooligans can already be placed under restriction orders that ban them from travelling to a specific place and require them to report to a police station on the day of a football match. Only 100 of these orders have been issued, despite more than 20,000 convictions for football-related offences.

Girl of 4 was squirted in tussle with suspects

A GIRL of four was sprayed in the face as police tried to arrest two suspects outside her uncle's home in Bordeseley Green, Birmingham.

Lauren Thompson was playing when she was hit by the spray, which the officers used to subdue two men wanted in connection with motoring offences. The spray was deflected off one of the men and on to her face.

She was later treated by a police surgeon, who judged that the spray had had a minimal effect on the child.

Lauren's mother, Michelle, said that her daugher had been screaming in pain: "Her eyes were terrible, swollen and red. She could not stop rubbing them and she was coughing."

Kenneth Whitaker was sprayed in the face as he sat in his car after he had dropped his disabled wife at a hairdresser's salon. Mr Whitaker, 67, had stopped on double yellow lines to enable his wife, Phyllis, 76, to get to the salon at Kempston in Bedfordshire.



Lauren Thompson: was accidentally sprayed

A police constable used the spray on him after he became abusive, refused to give personal details and tried to bite the officer when he reached into the car to take the keys. Mr Whitaker was temporarily blinded in one eye and needed hospital treatment after twice being squirted in the face.

PC Andrew Taylor, 31, said Mr Whitaker had refused several times to give his details or to get out of the car, and that he used the spray when Mr Whitaker bared his teeth and sat with his arms rigid.

PC Taylor was acquitted of assault in June after becoming the first police officer to be charged with unlawfully using the spray.

Mr Whitaker has received £7,500 from Bedfordshire Police.

Trial for new rabies injection next year

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

TRIALS of a new system for travelling abroad with pet cats and dogs, based on an anti-rabies vaccination rather than quarantine, could take place next year.

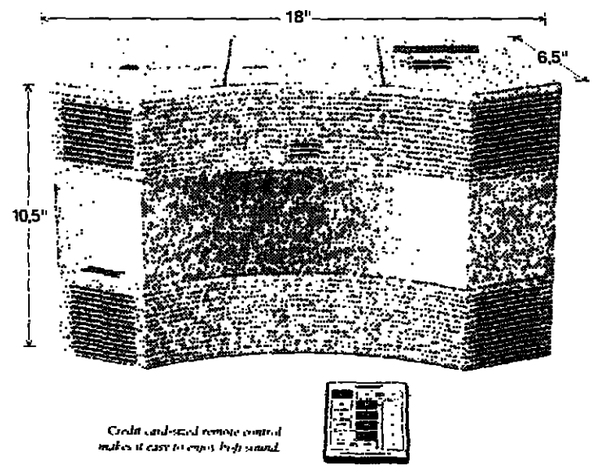
Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is keen to reform the existing law, under which all cats and dogs of whatever origin entering Britain must spend six months in isolation kennels. Britain has some of the strictest quarantine laws in the world.

Mr Brown told *The Times* that a scientific report commission by the Government last autumn, and to be published later this month, had made a compelling case for change. The report, by Ian Kennedy, of University College London, concludes that vaccination, backed by blood tests and microchip identification, would be just as effective as quarantine.

Some 9,000 cats and dogs pass through quarantine every year, earning about £12 million for Britain's 79 licensed quarantine kennel owners, who will no doubt demand compensation if the law is changed.

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Half of Britain's shops are now open on Sundays

Audrey Magee and Ciaran Hughes report on a change in our way of life

SHOPPING has become an accepted part of the British Sunday, with almost half of the country's stores opening and less than a quarter of shoppers opposed in principle to the practice, according to a new survey.

The study of 20 centres England and Wales, for the consultants Healey and Baker, found that the number of shops that opened on Sunday had increased since last year, when only a third of Britain's shops did so. Mixed goods stores, such as department stores, continue to represent the highest percentage of shops that open on a Sunday. There has been a marked increase in food shops remaining open — up from 50 per cent last year to 72 per cent this year; and 60.1 per cent of sports and leisure stores open on Sundays, compared with 48 per cent in 1997.

Sales on a Sunday are not outstanding — they add up to about a third of those on Saturdays, the busiest day of trading.

The Sunday trading laws were relaxed in 1994, and Dr Yvonne Court, Head of Retail Research Services, says that Sunday trading "has become fully established in the British way of life and makes good sense. For many people, longer opening hours offer the convenience of being able to shop outside the peak times."

In the Irish Republic, the number of people paying more attention to Mammon than to God on a Sunday is worrying Church leaders. A recent survey showed that 60 per cent of the Republic's Roman Catholics attended weekly Mass compared with 77 per cent four years ago.

Virtually every shop in Grafton Street, the main shopping street in Dublin, now opens on Sunday, and shopping centres on the outskirts of the capital are booming. For the shopping centre in Blanchardstown, Sunday is the busiest day of the week.

The Catholic bishops, spurred by a recent letter from the Pope calling on Christians to keep Sunday holy, will draw up an emergency plan at their conference next month to try to stem the tide.

The Most Rev Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, a west of Ireland diocese, recently said that a society that did not observe Sabbath was "a retrograde step on behalf of the producer/consumer society". The Archbishop said that it was "a form of slavery" for success to be "measured in terms of economics, productivity and possessions".

The number of Roman Catholics in England and Wales who attend Mass has also fallen.

The Catholic Church accepts that it must compete for worshippers with rival attractions. Priests have been encouraged to improve their preaching, in recognition of the wide choice of activities now available on Sundays. The Church has also revived Mass on Saturday evenings and offered Sunday services with or without music, of differing durations and times.

Kieran Conry, a spokesman for the Catholic Church and a priest in Wandsworth, south London, said: "Habits are changing — there is a lot more to do on a Sunday and there has been a gradual decline in Mass-going. Nobody can say if that is tied to shopping, but the nature of Sunday is being destroyed. Soon it will be a working day."

In Ireland, trade unions and some politicians are also worried about the trend. Ireland has no laws governing Sunday opening hours. In Britain, large supermarkets can open for a maximum of six hours on Sunday. In Ireland, the shopping day has no legal end.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Shoppers in London on a Sunday. A survey found that few people dispprove of Sunday trading

Children face rise in school bullying

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

A MASSIVE increase in the number of children complaining of bullying has taken it ahead of physical and mental abuse from adults as the main trauma they face.

Calls to ChildLine about school bullies rose by 40 per cent last year, with ChildLine helping 14,300 bullied children last year, many of whom said they had been driven close to suicide.

The escalating scale of the problem has led the charity to launch a campaign on the issue, to increase awareness and raise funds to help more children. At present, the charity answers only 3,300 calls of the 10,000 they receive daily because of restricted resources.

ChildLine hopes to raise over £500,000 from a pin-badge campaign launched today to draw attention to the problems of bullying and bring them into the open. A new leaflet to guide parents, pupils and teachers on how to recognise and cope with bullying, is also to be introduced.

St Andrews to take a swing at golf vandals

BY ROBIN YOUNG

AFTER 250 years' serene pursuit of golfing excellence, adminstrators at the world's best-known course have been obliged to hire round-the-clock security guards to control vandals.

The Fife course at St Andrews is the most hallowed 6,566 yards in golfing history, but it has been anything but sacred to night-time intruders who have burned benches, torn up flags and lit barbecues in the bunkers.

By day St Andrews is a Mecca for lovers of the game from all over the world. Golf pilgrims queue for precious tee-times on the links, and when it is finally their turn to play many spend more time posing for pictures by the Swilken Burn and the Road Hole than they do lining up their shots. After their £100 round on the Fife course most visitors buy a St Andrews sweater and bonnet to take home with them.

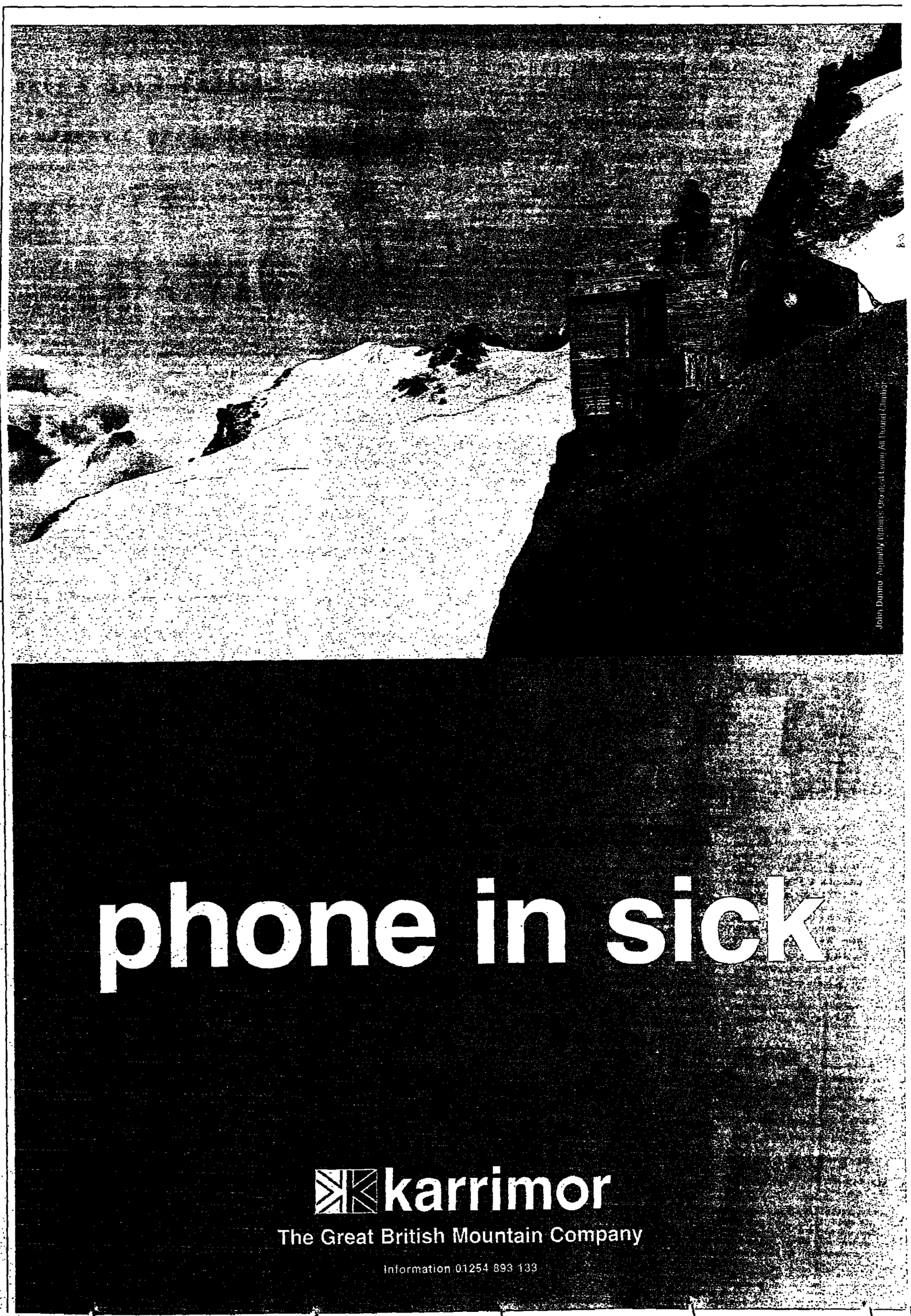
Now it is feared the green fees at the course will be forced even higher, to help pay for the security guards who will be patrolling the strip alongside the Fife coast. St Andrews's five other courses — the New, Eden, Jubilee, Strathtyrum and Balgove — have also suffered from night-time vandals, so now guards will come on duty when the daytime rangers sign off.

The vandalism has been blamed by some on students at St Andrews University, although this is strenuously denied by the University Students' Association which says there is no evidence to implicate the students.

No one was available from the St Andrews Links management committee yesterday for comment but a spokeswoman for St Andrews University said any students found misbehaving would be dealt with by its disciplinary policy.

The Links management committee will be reviewing green fees later this month and an increase is expected because the night guards will cost thousands of pounds a year to employ.

Yesterday one golfer, who did not want to be named, said: "If an increase in fees is linked to this vandalism then I am sure a lot of golfers would see that as unfair. It's a shame that somewhere like St Andrews has to resort to security like this."



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All aboard the virtual school bus

FINDLAY KEMBER



Coreen King, a parent at Wheatfields Junior School in St Albans, acts as a "driver" in the virtual bus scheme. Pupils are kept in line by the volunteer "conductor" bringing up the rear

Arthur Leathley reports on a simple scheme to keep pupils safe and reduce morning traffic congestion

CHILDREN will take part today in a simple but groundbreaking attempt to prevent traffic congestion caused by the school run. The "virtual bus" is seen by ministers as the cheap and effective way of persuading parents to let their children walk to school.

Pupils in St Albans, Hertfordshire, will stand at a series of "bus stops", waiting for a trained volunteer to escort them to school.

The virtual bus scheme comes complete with a "conductor" who supervises the pupils during their half-mile walk to school and a "driver", who wheels a trolley carrying satchels, lunch boxes and gym bags. Pupils even get a timetable of the free service.

Parents chauffeuring their children to school are responsible for about one in five morning peak-time car journeys. Ministers worried about the reluctance of parents to allow their children to walk to school have told local councils that priority must be given to providing safe routes for cycling and walking.

The St Albans scheme, believed to be the first formal project of its kind, is centred on Wheatfields Junior School in the north of the city. Pupils aged between 5 and 10 will receive a loyalty card, allowing them to receive free items from the school stationery shop if they use the service regularly.

Only 59 per cent of children aged 5 to 10 currently walk to school, compared with 72 per cent in the mid-1970s.

Each volunteer escort will undergo police checks and will take up to five pupils. The school plans to extend the scheme to a further six routes later this month.

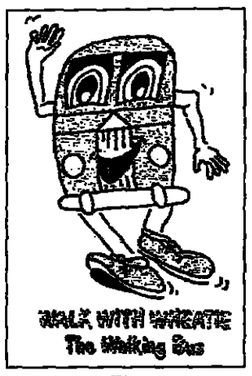
The scheme has been devised by Mouchel Consulting, a civil engineering company hired by Hertfordshire County Council to set up safer routes for pupils. Although the scheme being tried this week involves only a half-mile walk, there are plans to introduce longer routes later.

Julia Moreland, from Mouchel, said: "Like every other school, congestion is a problem at Wheatfields and this is a simple way of ensuring that children get to school safely.

"They all wear fluorescent vests and it has the advantage that they also learn about road sense as well."

To keep some of the older pupils interested in being escorted to school, an end-of-term "green disco" is being staged for those who join the virtual bus project or cycle and walk to school.

A successful trial scheme was run at the school in June and other local authorities have approached organisers to find out the best way of setting up the virtual bus scheme.



Posters will encourage pupils to use the "bus"

Daily car run can be bad for child's health

BY IAN MURRAY, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who are driven to school risk growing up with heart disease and brittle bones, according to a report published today.

Parents may think it is safer to drop their children off rather than let them walk, it says, but they are establishing a behaviour pattern that could undermine their health in later years.

The report, by researchers at the Institute of Child Health, part of The Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street, is based on an analysis of published data on school travel during the past 20 years. It aims to shock parents into realising the harm they are doing their children with the daily school run.

Most primary schoolchildren still walk to school but the proportion has fallen from 72 per cent in the mid-1970s to 59 per cent today. The main factors influencing the decline appear to be rising car ownership and parents' fears of molestation, abduction and traffic accidents.

At present 82 per cent of five to ten-year-olds from households without cars walk to school compared with 52 per cent of those in households with two or more cars.

The daily walk to school represents 41 per cent of the average distance walked by all children annually, making it a vital component of physical activity at a time when figures show rising obesity among British children.

The patterns of adult physical activity are known to be established in childhood. Participation in sports declines steeply when children leave school, but those who are physically active are likely to persist with sports and other exercise into adult life. Adults who still participate in sports at 36 are likely to be those who were good at games at school.

Physical exercise in adulthood reduces illness and premature death from heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and osteoporosis. It also reduces mental health disorders.

According to Ian Roberts, director of child health monitoring at the institute, children are driven around more because the physical environment has become so hostile. "Children are also getting more miserable," he said. "We are seeing a whole host of behavioural problems, and while that's not necessarily linked to being cooped up, it cannot help."

He said the trend for adults to take less exercise was already increasing the amount of ill health in older people. "The present generation of children, progressively losing the habit of walking to school, will continue the trend," he said. "And as more parents acquire cars, more children will be driven."

Ben Plowden, director of the Pedestrians' Association, the pressure group that commissioned the report, said: "Rising car ownership, time pressures and fears about paedophiles and traffic make the school run seem unavoidable for many parents. The resulting air pollution and traffic damage the health of children who do still walk to school. Now it looks like the school run may be bad for the health of the children being driven, let alone their future health as adults."

☐ *The School Run — Blessing or Blight?* The Pedestrians' Association, 126 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JQ; £15

Standards are still perilously low, says pupil study

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

RESEARCH has shown that standards in many English schools are "perilously low" and pupils who struggle in primary school continue to fail throughout their education.

Teachers are blamed in the report, to be published today, for not helping pupils who find schoolwork difficult. The research also shows that the social background of children does not influence their ability.

The research, carried out for the Social Market Foundation, analysed test scores of 2.4 million pupils aged seven to 16 in more than 23,000 schools. The author of the report, John Marks, a former government policy adviser, said: "At present rates of improvement — where they exist — it will take many years before the actual standards achieved are equal to the expected standards. The spread between the standards of different schools of the same type remains very large, shows little sign of decreasing and may even be increasing for some of the subjects studied."

The research showed that pupils who struggled with learning at an early age were not helped through their difficulties by teachers, and therefore continued to slip behind their classmates over the following years. In some cases, pupils could fall up to six academic years behind those of the same age in neighbouring schools. Overall, 98 per cent of schools failed to achieve the national target for English for their 14-year-old pupils.

In Barnsley there was up to 3½ years' difference between pupils from separate schools who took English and mathematics tests. In some other schools, more than 30 per cent of pupils failed all their GCSEs.

Last weekend a survey by education researchers from Reading University showed that two thirds of secondary schools did not know how to teach literacy properly and wanted clearer government advice on how to help low achievers to improve for national curriculum tests.

Two weeks ago GCSE results suggested that poor performers were consistently ignored by teachers in favour of high-flying pupils who could alter the school's league table positions. In mathematics, the number of pupils who did not even achieve a result at GCSE had doubled since 1997. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the body that oversees national curriculum tests, has promised a full review of the situation faced by low achievers for next year.

Twinning plan may be adopted by the UN

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

UNITED NATIONS officials are considering whether a Gloucestershire school's scheme to help children abroad should be adopted by governments internationally.

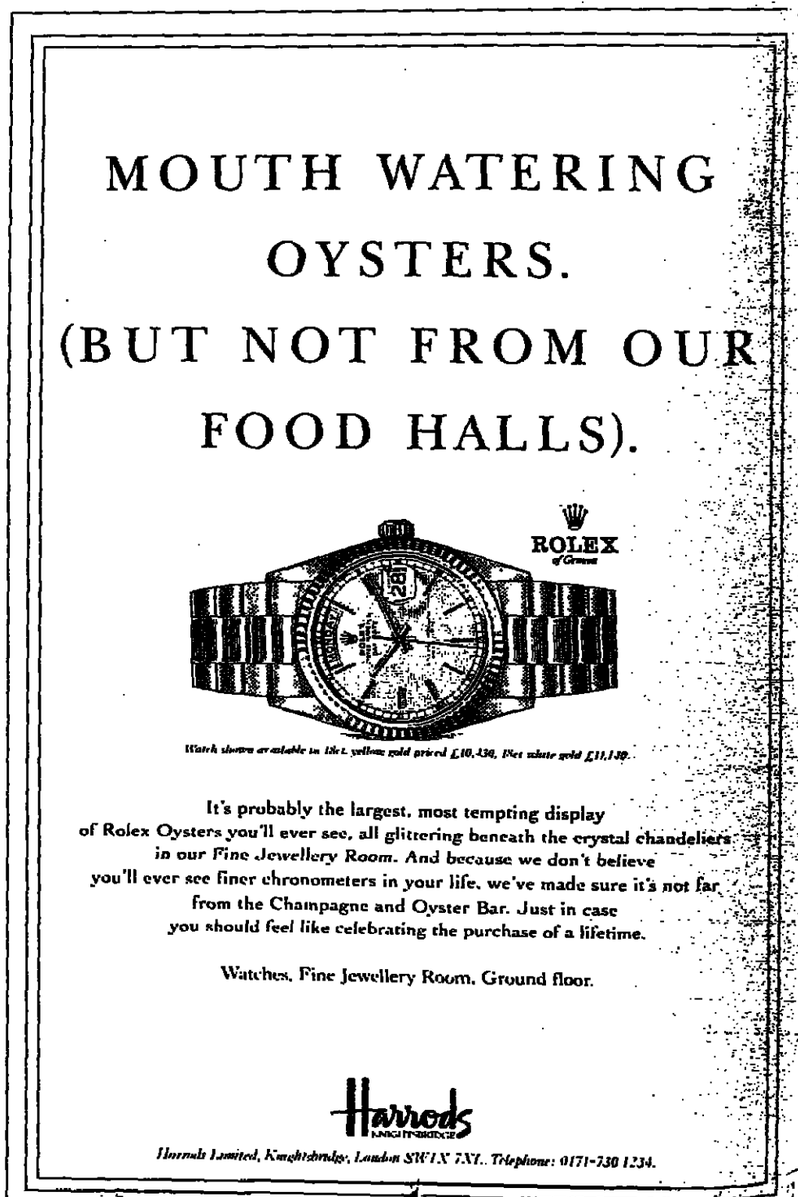
The scheme, devised by the Archway comprehensive in Stroud, twins a British school with one of similar size abroad to work on specific projects. It has been described by one senior UN official as "so simple it is embarrassing that we haven't thought of it before".

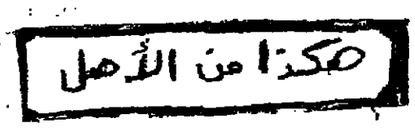
The UN's interest in the scheme comes at a time when it is seeking ways to raise money as governments cut back on aid programmes. Senior UN officials have invited pupils from Archway to describe their scheme in detail.

It was inspired by Diana, Princess of Wales's last trip to Bosnia, when she promised to help Mirzeta Gabelic, a 16-year-old who lost a leg when she stepped on a landmine. The Princess died before she could carry out her promise and the school sent one of its pupils to Sarajevo to see what practical help it could offer Mirzeta and her family.

As a result of the trip, the school helped to renovate the girl's home and provided a playground for her school. Bob Willey, a teacher at Archway, said: "Our children can use this experience to figure out a business project, its costing and application, and to learn about the effect of war. They feel ownership of the problem and the solution."







No place for Carman in QCs' million-a-year club

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FIFTEEN Queen's Counsel who reputedly earn £1 million a year are named this week in a survey of earnings at the Bar.

The top-grossing QCs include six who have joined the million-a-year club since last year, according to the survey in the 1998 *Chambers' Guide to the Legal Profession*. But gone from the list is George Carman, the libel silk who was among the top earners when the survey was first published last year.

The six barristers new to the list this year, who are said by colleagues and barristers' clerks to be earning £1 million before overheads and expenses, are: Terence Etherton, Michael Flesch, David Oliver, Jules Sher, Nicholas Stadlen and Geoffrey Vos.

Out of the "club", with Mr Carman, are: Andrew Park, who since last year has been appointed a High Court judge, Peter Scott, and Michael Beloff, now President of Trinity College, Oxford, and busy on a wide range of activities as well as his practice. Mr Carman was the only QC in the list last year who did not come from the tax, commercial or chancery Bar. He has not recently had a major libel action, such as the Jonathan Aitken case, that has gone all the way to trial.

The survey is published by Chambers & Partners as part of a package of research in its directory of 1,000 law firms and barristers. Reena Sen-Gupta, the guide's editor, said: "Barristers' earnings one year may be very different the next: they are not set in stone. You can get caught up in one case that lasts for months, for instance, or a big case can settle."

The income of many top-earning solicitors was much more certain, she said. In contrast, barristers were far more vulnerable to the vagaries of fortune. Nonetheless, there could more than 15 QCs in the million-a-year club: those whose earnings were on the borderline were excluded from the list and some clerks were coy about their barristers' earnings.

"There is a nervousness about being included because you might put off clients, and also you can also only fall downwards," Ms SenGupta said.

The figures come as the Bar struggles to rid itself of a "fat cat" image, reinforced in recent months by comments of government ministers. The House of Lords is due to report soon on how curbs may be imposed on top-earning legal aid QCs.

Ms SenGupta said that the pre-tax figures, which had to be reduced by 20 per cent to take account of overheads, were not out of line with top earnings in banking, industry and commerce. They also reflected the fact that clients were prepared to pay more for the QCs' top-quality work. "These fees represent a fraction of the millions that the QCs succeed in saving for their clients in many of these cases and the company clients that pay them regard them as value for money," Ms SenGupta said.

The guide, which has its research audited by the British Market Research Bureau, reveals the QCs regarded by other lawyers and clients as the best performers in their fields. It also has a list of the top ten "stars" at the Bar — QCs rated highly across several fields of law, rather than one or two, by the solicitors who instruct them.

Top of the list is Gordon Pollock, who appears in nine specialist lists. His practice is said to be "unmatched". He is followed by Jonathan Sumption in eight lists. Anthony Grabiner, in third place, is on only five lists but the quality of his practice is said to be "outstanding". Six of the top ten are in the million-a-year club.

Letters, page 21

TOP EARNERS

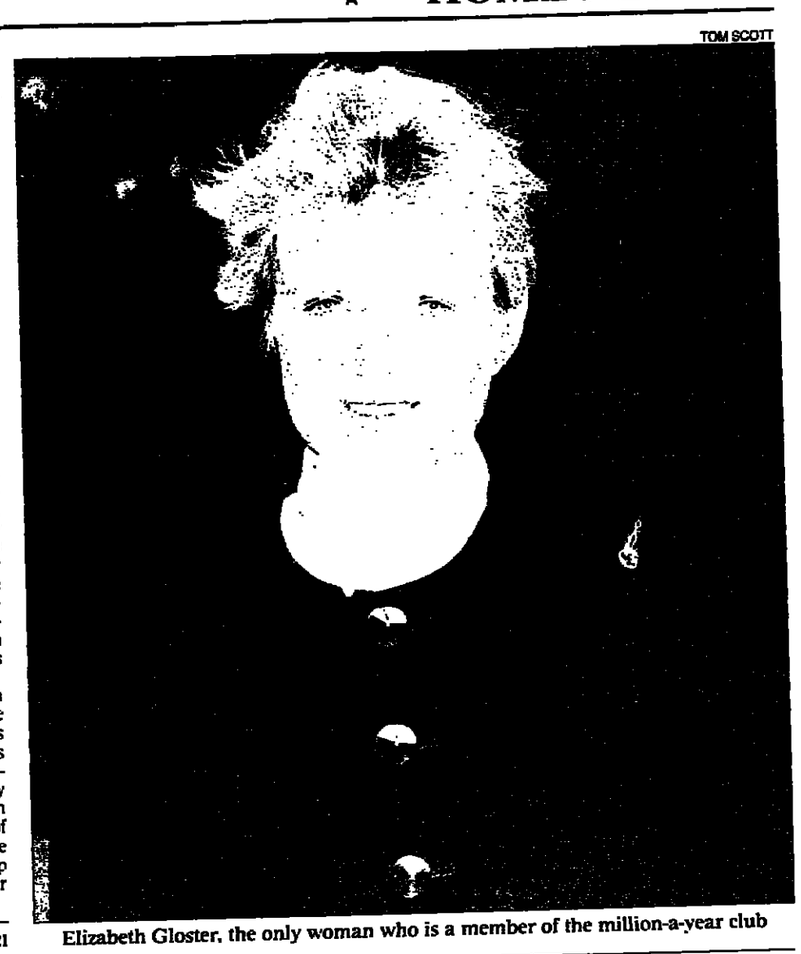
The QCs who are in the million-a-year club:

Graham Aaronson
Michael Burton
Christopher Carr
Terence Etherton
Michael Flesch
John Gardiner
Elizabeth Gloster
David Goldberg
Anthony Grabiner
David Oliver
Gordon Pollock
Jules Sher
Nicholas Stadlen
Jonathan Sumption
Geoffrey Vos



Pollock: number one "star" at the Bar

TOM SCOTT



Elizabeth Gloster, the only woman who is a member of the million-a-year club

Mother sues hospital over cancer 'failure'

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A MOTHER who has secondary breast cancer is taking legal action against Guy's hospital after doctors allegedly failed to diagnose her condition for three years.

Beth Wagstaff, 39, who set up the breast cancer charity The Lavender Trust in memory of her close friend Ruth Picardie, the journalist who died a year ago of breast cancer, has issued a medical negligence claim against Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust.

Ms Wagstaff, who lives in Hertford with her husband, Jon, and their three children, said: "I'm not going to be around to give my children the lifestyle and support that a mother normally gives her children. The hospital compensation can't bring me back, but it certainly can help."

Ms Wagstaff says she first attended Guy's hospital in 1992 with a small lump in her breast. But it was not until Christmas 1994 that she was given a mammogram and discovered that she had breast cancer.

She was treated with chemotherapy for six months, followed by more than 50 doses of radiotherapy. But at the beginning of 1997 she discovered a dry patch of skin on her breast and a biopsy revealed the cancer had returned and spread to her bones. She had a mastectomy.

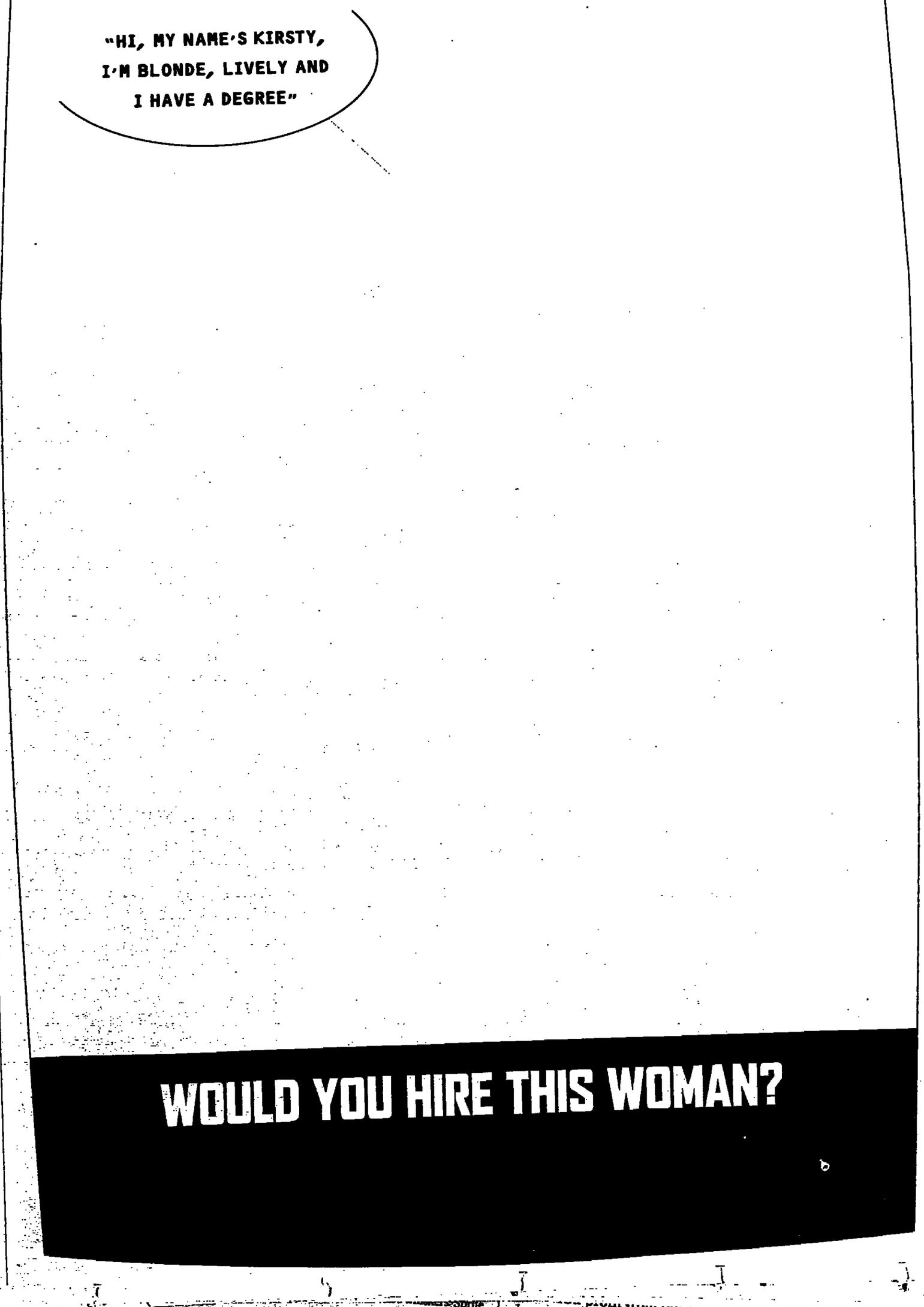
Yesterday a spokeswoman for the trust said: "We have the greatest sympathy for Beth and her family. Like her, we want to resolve this case as soon as possible. The lawyers are negotiating at the moment."

Ms Wagstaff will be interviewed on the programme *Too Young For Death*, scheduled to be shown on Channel 4 on October 14.



Wagstaff: says Guy's misdiagnosed cancer





Males of combat age segregated by Serbs

Fears are growing for the safety of ethnic Albanian captives and refugees in Kosovo, reports **Anthony Loyd** *from Ponorac*



THE Serbian victory has brought even the gravediggers of Ponorac to their knees. The four Albanian men scratched away at the soil with their shovels, hunched unnaturally beneath a low stone wall.

The reason for their fear was obvious: they appeared to be the only men of potential combat age visible in the Kosovo town seized by the Serbs after a four-day operation 37 miles southwest of Pristina. A short distance beyond the wall was the schoolhouse where Serb police and soldiers had locked up hundreds of males in the 15 to 55 age bracket.

The diggers could not talk to us or we to them. We raised our palms in question through the car window. The answer from among the small cluster of graves was unmistakable — the index fingers pointed frantically at the hole in the ground, then the squeezing of imaginary triggers.

Even by the standards of the past few weeks, the Serb offensive in this area has been disproportionate in the extreme. Starting on Wednesday, Serb artillery hit villages north and west of Orahovac, pushing columns of refugees into the mountain villages above Ponorac. By Thursday, tanks and mortars added their fire, sending an even larger mass of people out of burning homes over the ridgelines into the valley round Ponorac.

On Friday, the bombardment seemed to peak as it spilled upon the villages surrounding Ponorac. Of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which the offensive was designed to smash, there was little sign. By noon on Friday most of the refugee columns gave up running. Surrounded by advancing Serb troops, exhausted and terrified, they huddled together in groups — some several thousand strong, some just a few dozen — in forests and fields.

"The police came with their guns drawn," said Ismajl Morina, 68, who was part of a 2,500-strong column caught at the bottom of a valley. "They were very aggressive, sticking the guns in our ribs and faces. We were forced to sit down surrounded. There were six tanks above us and eight tanks at the end of the valley. A police commander arrived and told all the men to get up and move to the left. They came to me and asked how old I was. I said 70. After about an hour, the police told the old men, women and children to go home. But a group of 100 to 125 men aged between 15 and 55 remained behind us."

Among these segregated males were nine members of Mr Morina's family, including his son and grandson. At nightfall he saw Serb lorries take the prisoners away. The scenario was completed with each group of refugees.

Though Ponorac itself was untouched by the shelling, the arrival of the police and army together with hundreds of male captives frightened most refugees into further flight.

On Saturday they baked in the sun, on Sunday they were drenched in rain. "The Serbs have burnt our homes, taken our vehicles, our possessions and now our men," an elderly Albanian said as he stood among 40 women and children. "We have been on the road for three days with nothing to eat."

The US Assistant Secretary of State for human rights, John Shattuck, yesterday urged the West to press President Milosevic for an immediate ceasefire.

☐ **Belgrade:** Washington has announced another large increase in its aid spending in Kosovo, putting together a £13 million food delivery.

FRANK RUMPENHORST / AP



Frankfurt puts on a firework display at the weekend as part of its Skyscraper Festival

Rivals exploit fears of threat from the East

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Bavaria, land of cowbells, car designers and computer whizz kids, elects a new parliament on Sunday. The Christian Social Union (CSU) is the dominant force and will surely hold on to power, but the far-Right Republicans are scratching away on the outer fringe. As much as 8 per cent of the vote could go to this ultra-nationalist party as it mops up Eurodissidents and xenophobes. The Bavarian election matters to Helmut Khol. If the CSU loses voters, the result will be blamed on the Chancellor in Bonn rather than Edmund Stoiber, the state premier.

To fend off the challenge from the right, the CSU has become stridently tough on crime and immigration.

The election campaign is more than the usual theatre in the round. It is beginning to close down German options, reduce its role as the self-appointed advocate of swift Central European entry to the EU. The tone was obvious at an election rally when leading Social Democrat Rudolf Scharping insisted that foreign labourers should be paid the same as Germans on Berlin building sites. That is a way of saying: "Keep East Europeans off the jobs market."

In last week's parliamentary duel between Herr Kohl and his tough challenger, Gerhard Schröder, both men danced to the new melody. Herr Schröder demanded that the Chancellor present a timetable for East European accession, with details as to how the European freedom of labour rules will be implemented.

The Social Democrats, in other words, are playing on the fear of cheap eastern workers. Herr Kohl, for his part, talked about "our powerful neighbour in the east, Russia". Since 1945 there has been no German-Russian border; Poland gets in the way. Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, has at least grasped the geography. He has been urging Poles to close their eastern frontier with Ukraine lest the Ukrainians tread westwards. That too might become a condition of Polish entry.

Eastward enlargement is not particularly popular among Germans and so politicians on the populist trail exploit fears rather than waste time trying to sell the idea of a bigger Europe.

The last fortnight has shown that Germany really does not have a Russia policy. It does business, it buys gas, it backs President Yeltsin. Now Mr Yeltsin is on the ropes, there is no business to be done (50,000 German jobs may be lost as a result of the Russian crisis, according to the tabloid press), and no government with which to conduct diplomacy.

Other countries are in a similar position, having failed to understand that policy in Russia bounces like a billiard ball from cushion to cushion. But Germany's fundamental national interest, obscured by the elections, is to put up a firebreak between the crumbling of post-communist Russia and the young democracies of Central Europe. Only rapid EU entry can achieve this. Sadly, the German political class has chosen this critical moment to lose concentration.

Berlin police seize spy scandal files

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN police have searched a Berlin publisher's offices for the manuscript of a former top spy whose memoirs reveal that the counter-espionage service was infiltrated by Nazis, chaotically managed and sex obsessed.

Hans Joachim Tiedge was chief of West German counter-espionage until he defected to East Berlin in 1985. When the East German state collapsed, he fled to Moscow where he now lives, protected by the Russian security services. His memoirs, *The Defector*, have been printed and stored in Austria to keep them out of the hands of the German police. The police raid on the publishing house, Das Neue Berlin, last Monday netted galleyproofs and a version on computer disk.

The prosecutor's office may take out an injunction against the book if it finds sufficient evidence that Herr Tiedge has violated German secrecy rules. He faces outstanding treason charges.

Among the book's revelations are claims that a Soviet agent had an affair with the wife of a minister in the Hesse state government; a German agent triggered an alarm in counter-espionage headquarters in Cologne while making love to a colleague on his desk; and that the service hired former Nazis and sheltered them well into the 1960s.

One, Erich Wenger — formerly a Gestapo representative in in Paris — used to hide in the office when Allied representatives visited, lest he be recognised.

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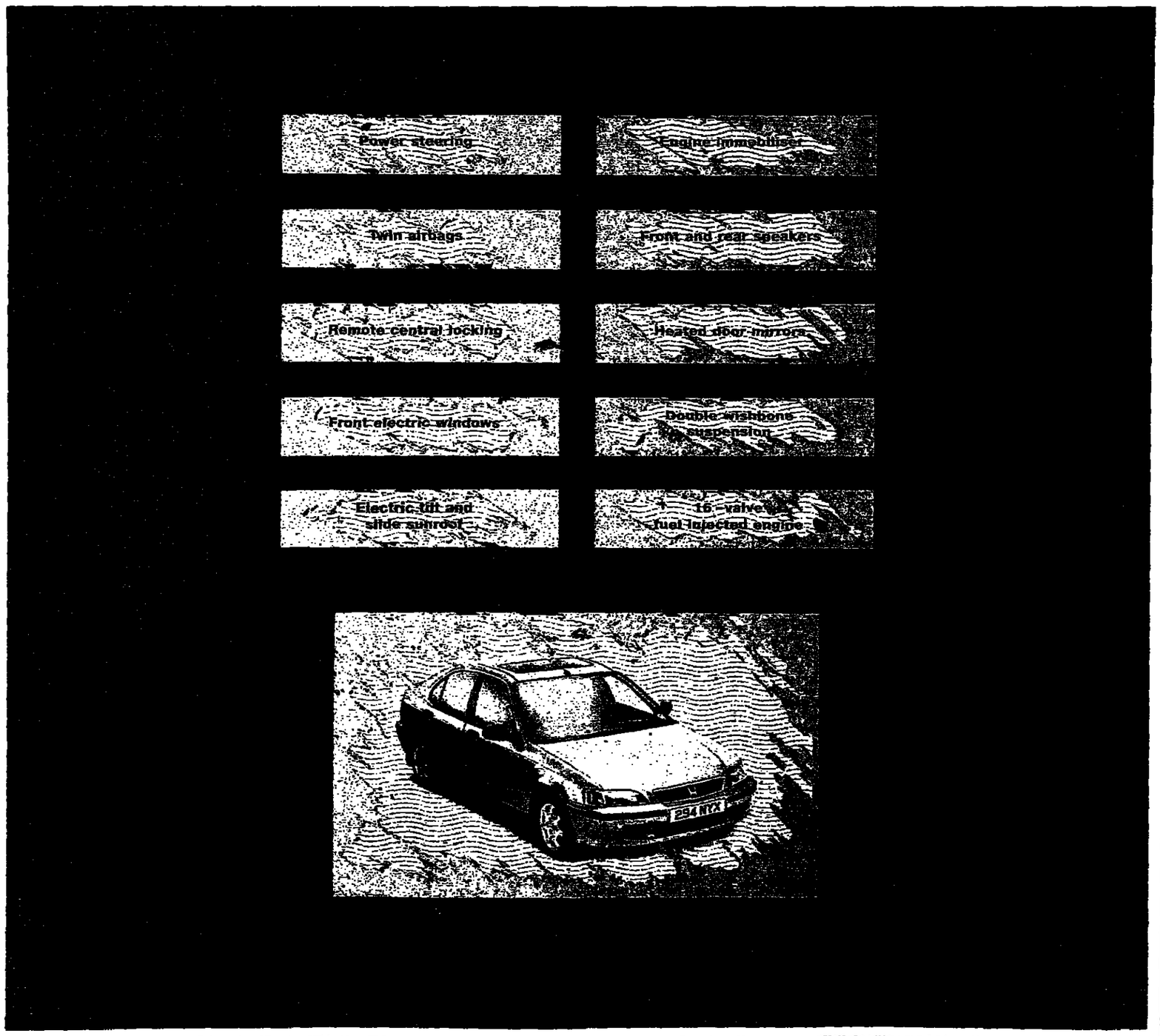
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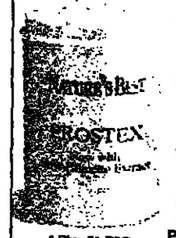
Model shown is the Civic 5 Door 1.4i manual. Total cash price £12,950 includes £475 for delivery, £25 first registration fee and £150 for 12 months' road tax based on CO2 emissions and £225 for metallic paint. 2 years' free servicing comprises two years'/30,000 miles (whichever comes first) free servicing to be carried out every 6,000 miles. Offer only available on Civic 5 Door 1.4i models purchased and registered between 1 September and 30 November 1998. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. Independent copy of credit reference may be required in certain circumstances. Full written quotations available on request. Insurance subject to status. Price correct at time of going to press. Model subject to availability. Honda (UK) 4 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5YT. A division of Honda Motor Europe Ltd. Registered Office: Connections Bridge House, Waterside Place, Reading, RG1 8DB. No.837969. Registered in England & Wales

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THE TIMES MONDAY

Russian ways of

EU backs reform

ALAN CLARK FORUM

صكذا من الأصل

Russians relearn ways of austerity

Moscow's luxury liner has been exposed as a ship of fools, Richard Beeston writes

LIKE passengers on the *Titanic* moments after the collision with an iceberg, Muscovites have reacted with a mixture of panic and bravado to the looming disaster facing their city.

As the flagship of Russia's reforms begins sinking in a sea of inflation and currency devaluation, some citizens are frantically scrambling for the lifeboats while others are opting to have one last dance in the ballroom or order a final round of drinks at the bar.

Three weeks into the crisis caused by the fall of the rouble and the collapse of the banking sector, it is now dawning on even the most optimistic Russians that the country faces years of hardship before it can hope to turn its economy around.

As banks and businesses continue to lay off thousands of staff and shoppers hoard staple goods to see them through the winter, the capital is heading back to a future reminiscent of Soviet days.

The first casualties have been the luxury imported items which during Moscow's glitzy heyday over the past four years were vital status symbols for the new rich.

Today expensive shops stand empty, their foreign designer clothes beyond the means of all but a tiny minority rich enough to sit out the disaster. Similarly, sales of foreign cars, particularly the *Jeeps and Mercedes favoured* by "new Russian" businessmen, have all but stopped. In their place the Lada, the boxy but durable saloon, has made an impressive comeback.

Newspapers, once full of gossip, today provide handy tips on how to cope with the new realities of life. Last week readers were told which foodstuffs were best to store — sugar, pasta, oats and salt. There was also advice on how to retrieve money frozen in bank accounts, whether or not to buy gold, and Soviet-era survival tips on how to make the best use of old socks, orange rinds and newspapers. Not everyone is gloomy, however. Over the weekend Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, threw his annual city birthday party and even hosted an athletics competition, which attracted international stars.

Although the city can ill afford to squander millions of pounds on parades and athletics sponsorship, the Mayor's beaming face and encouraging words did help to steady the city's nerves.

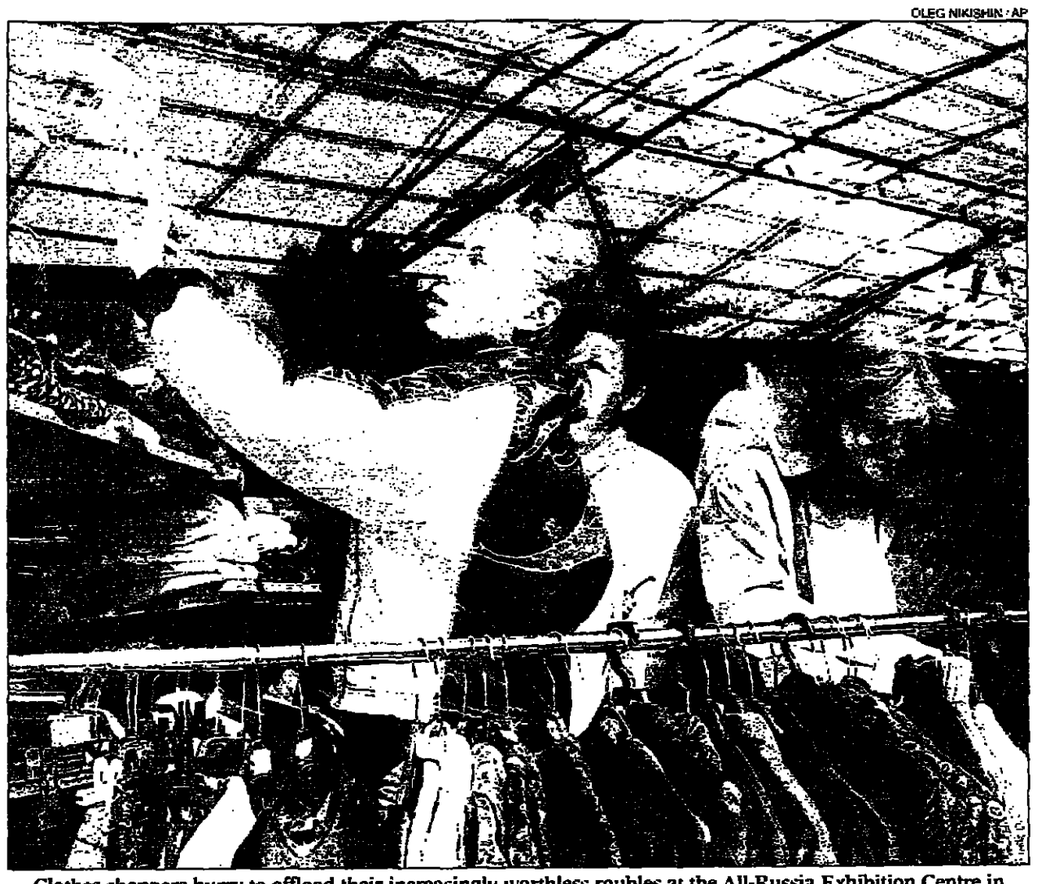
By far the stiffest upper lip in Moscow belongs to Aliona Doletskaya, the stylish editor of the new Russian *Vogue*, which launched its first edition just as the crisis was unfolding last month.

The *Kommersant* newspaper said: "The Russian edition of *Vogue* hit the newsstands the day the Kiriyenko government was fired and the entire middle class went to the dogs ... The life serviced by glossy lifestyle magazines has deflated and is dissolving right before our eyes."

Although the magazine cancelled a planned party for top foreign fashion designers and supermodels, it went ahead with a more modest bash. "Enjoy it while you can," said a Russian photographer. "This is the last party we are going to see like this in a very long time."

Bank write-off, page 48

OLEG NIKISHIN / AP



Clothes shoppers hurry to offload their increasingly worthless roubles at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in Moscow at the weekend. Imported luxury goods are expected to be the first victims of the economic crisis

Golden mosaic crumbles in winds

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

NEARLY a year after the Umbrian earthquake which badly damaged the Basilica of St Francis at Assisi, strong winds and heavy rain have brought down part of a world-renowned golden mosaic on the façade of the cathedral at Orvieto.

The area has been cordoned off amid fears that other sections may also collapse.

Experts said it appeared that the spectacular mosaic, depicting the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, had been weakened by last September's earthquake, but the damage had gone unnoticed. It had remained precariously in place until this weekend's bad weather, which marked the end of a scorchingly hot summer in Italy. Fragments fell near some tourists, but no one was hurt.

EU backs mild reform recipe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN SALZBURG

THE European Union yesterday distanced itself from the American-backed recipe for all-out market reform in Russia and urged Moscow to forge a European-style welfare state as the surest solution to its economic and political woes.

The EU foreign ministers came up with their Russian formula at a session in Salzburg, Austria, that was coloured by concern over Europe's inability to run an effective common foreign policy and by some annoyance with the US. The absence on holiday of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, from an important EU council was seen by some continental ministers as a symptom of continuing British lack of EU spirit. Joyce Quin, the newly appointed Europe Minister, occupied Mr Cook's seat.

Europe wanted Russia to adopt the 1950s model of European economy rather than unfettered capitalism promoted by the Americans, said Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister. "You cannot force a market economy onto them when it took two centuries to take root with us," he said.

The EU's new emphasis on gentler Russian reforms reflects a growing fear that the present crisis could lead to social unrest. In a brief statement that took a week to draft, the 15 governments called on Moscow to rule out a return to a Soviet-style command economy in favour of "structural reforms in order to establish a social market economy".

America was also the butt of ministerial attacks after Christopher Hill, Washington's special envoy for the crisis in Kosovo, attacked the EU last week for what he said was indifference to the Balkans while they "toasted themselves" on creating a United Europe.

In a furious riposte, Klaus Kinkel, the German minister, said: "It is not the role of a US Ambassador to express himself in such a cynical and disdainful way." The EU was doing a lot for Kosovo, ministers insisted, and there was now a glimmer of hope for a settlement there.

ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998.

The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister.

The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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Please note that tickets will be posted until September 9 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171 636 1577 to confirm your booking.



Clintons return to hostile Democrat reception

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton returned from Russia and Ireland yesterday to face the worsening crisis over his presidency, as more leading Democrats deserted his cause and Washington waited tensely for the impeachment report from Kenneth Starr, the prosecutor.

A stunned and panicky White House is bracing itself for the report on Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky, which could arrive in Congress this week, and which is set to be even more sexually explicit and legally perilous than his supporters had feared.

In Ms Lewinsky's final two hours of testimony on August 26, Mr Starr asked such detailed and intimate questions that he arranged for all lawyers and stenographers in the room to be women, according to *Time* magazine. In a further unexpected blow this weekend, Parris Glendening, the Democratic Governor of Maryland, pointedly distanced himself from Mr Clinton by cancelling a fund-raising event with the President which would have given him crucial cash for his difficult re-election fight.

The White House had counted Mr Glendening as one of the President's most vocal defenders, but was rebuffed when it tried to persuade him to go ahead with the event. Even in strongly Democratic Maryland, the Governor's private polls show public support for Mr Clinton withering, according to *The Washington Post*.

The Starr report on Mr Clinton's affair with the former White House trainee, which will provide the formal basis for impeachment hearings or pressure for Mr Clinton's resignation, could be delivered to Congress as early as this week, according to *Newsweek*. Six of Mr Starr's prosecutors are racing to complete the 300-page manuscript. He has also roped in the well-known Christian author and legal scholar, Stephen Bates, described as a "genuinely moral conservative" by colleagues, to bolster the team.

Waiting for the report, which will determine the future of the Clinton presidency, has sent Washington into a fever. Republicans have accused the White House of planning a "glass-house" counter-attack, "outing" Republican sexual scandals in retaliation. This weekend Dan Burton, a Republican moralist, who called Mr Clinton "a scumbag" just months ago, was forced to admit he had fathered an illegitimate son during his marriage.

Yesterday the capital was awash with rumours of the report's details, from stories that Mr Clinton had a sexual affair with another trainee, to tales that he had groped a woman in the back seat of the presidential limousine.

On Capitol Hill, party leaders were trying to calm the fever, urging members to wait until they could consider the facts before calling for Mr Clinton's resignation or impeachment. Asked whether he expected the US to have President Clinton or President Gore in a year's time, Trent Lott, the Senate leader, said carefully: "It depends what is in the Starr report."

This week Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, will hold an unprecedented meeting with Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, to decide who will see the most explicit parts. But privately aides admit there is no chance of keeping the sexual details secret behind a "firewall".

Democrats, who had hopes just months ago of reclaiming the House of Representatives, are now fearing a rout in the November elections. They are terrified that Republicans will increase their majority in the 100-seat Senate to 60.

The desperate and demoralised "spinners" in the White House have reverted to the tactic of "prebuttals" which they used in last year's campaign finance controversies — leaking sensitive information to try to control the light in which it is presented. In recent days they have revealed that the relationship was briefer and more sporadic than widely assumed — just half a dozen encounters, with a final tryst in February 1997.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

CHRIS KLEPONIS / REUTERS



The Clintons are met by Buddy on arriving home, but loyal friends are scarce

Doomed jet's last turn

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

INVESTIGATORS are working on a computer simulation of the last six minutes of Swissair Flight 111 before it crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia.

It emerged yesterday that Urs Zimmermann, the Swissair pilot, had flown a complex figure of eight over the water and nearby fishing villages at about 10,000ft. He tried in vain to dump fuel over the water because he believed his aircraft was still too heavy to land at Halifax international airport, which was less than ten minutes away.

Residents of Peggy's Cove and fishing villages around St Margaret's Bay have been telling reporters and police for the past four days that they had seen the aircraft pass over their homes and around the bay, not in a straight line out at sea. Investigators will determine whether the pilot's figure-of-eight manoeuvre may have lost precious time and contributed to the crash.

Investigators also revealed the final moment of the pilot's conversation at 10.24pm local time. Zimmermann radioed the air traffic control tower in Halifax: "We are declaring an emergency at 01.24." Up until then he had only declared a lower-level indication of trouble aboard the aircraft, a "pan pan pan", which is one level below the well-known mayday signal which the pilot never sent out.

Zimmermann continued: "We are starting 'vent now', we have to land immediately."

The radio communication suddenly went silent and the plane crashed six minutes later, possibly as it was still turning in a sharp loop to dump fuel. Investigators hope the black-box recorders will determine what happened after the radio and radar signals were broken off.

Over the weekend family members and friends of the victims arrived at Peggy's Cove. Many of them placed wreaths at the base of the lighthouse which attracts thousands of tourists every summer. Others threw flowers into the ocean as they wept openly or filled jars with seawater.

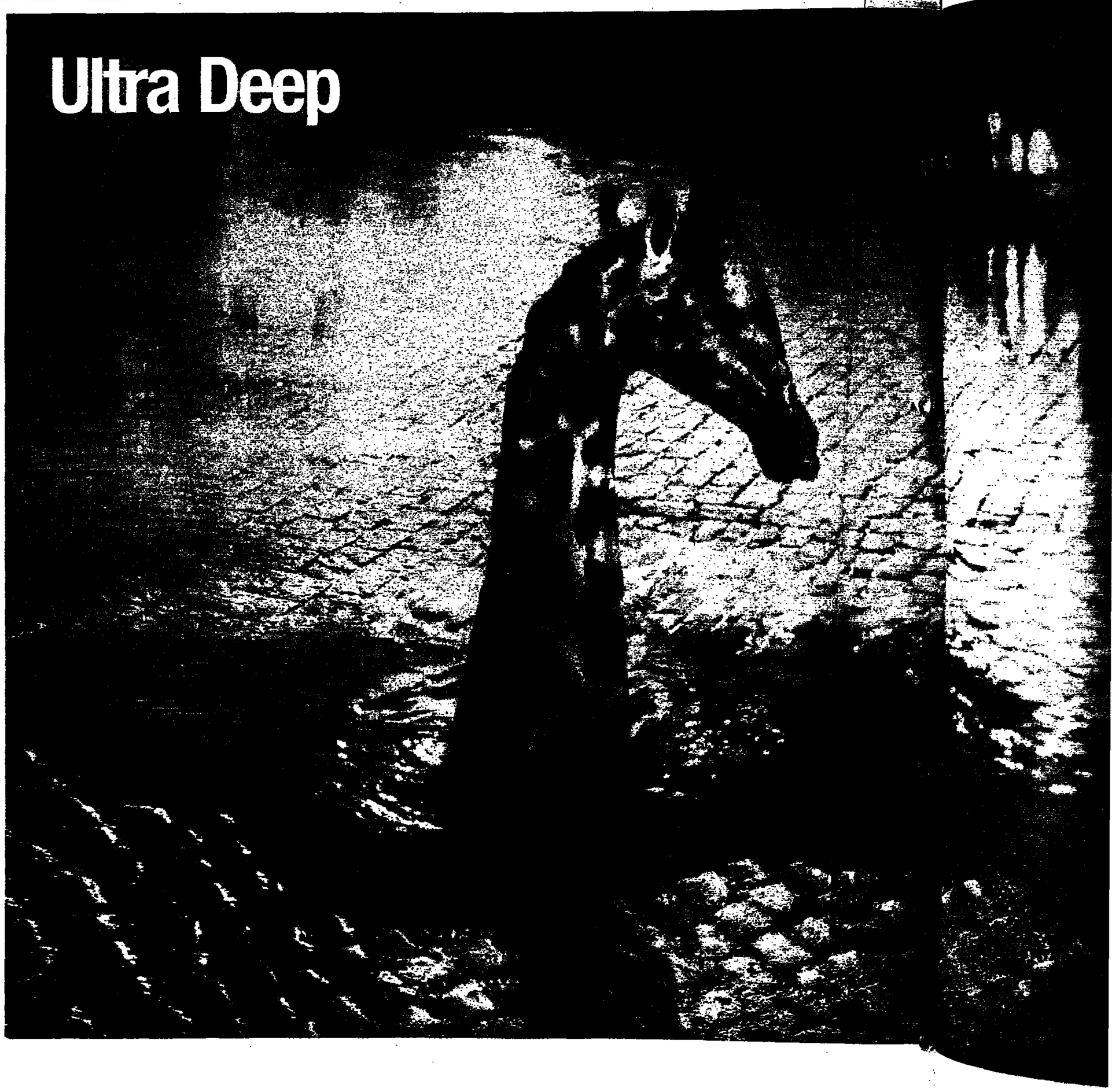
Meanwhile, another 200 Canadian soldiers were brought in, bringing to more than 500 the number of military personnel patrolling the coastline all along St Margaret's Bay, gathering pieces of the aircraft and part of human bodies which continue to wash up on the shore.



A Swissair pilot demonstrates a training exercise at the weekend to simulate smoke in a plane cockpit

THE TIMES MONDAY SE

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Iran threatens Afghan border

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

IRAN moved 70,000 Revolutionary Guards close to the Afghan border yesterday in a tacit threat to invade. Although Tehran denied any hostile intention, the manoeuvres sent a message that it is ready to defend hundreds of thousands of Shia Muslims fighting for their lives against the extremist Taleban militia.

State-run Tehran radio warned that Iran had the right under international law to take all necessary action against Taleban over the disappearance of ten Iranian diplomats and a journalist — probably killed by Taleban when it seized the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif a month ago. The Iranian Consulate was ransacked and bodies lay in the sun for days.

Taleban gave a warning of catastrophe if Iran invaded: "If war is imposed on us it will have a domino effect that would turn the entire region into a fireball." The militia is reported to have armed civilians along the border with Iran to meet any incursion by Revolutionary Guards — an almost meaningless gesture of resistance to superior forces.

Any military operation by Iran would doubtless expose Taleban's lack of military prowess, command structure or organisation. It is a ragtag army that has captured 90 per cent of the country mostly by bribing enemy commanders.

Thousands of Russian forces are positioned along the northern Afghan border in Tajikistan, ready to resist any border crossing. The rise of the fanatical Islamic army threatens to destabilise a wide region, and has drawn expressions of alarm from Turkey to India. China is also worried about unrest among its Muslim population in the west.

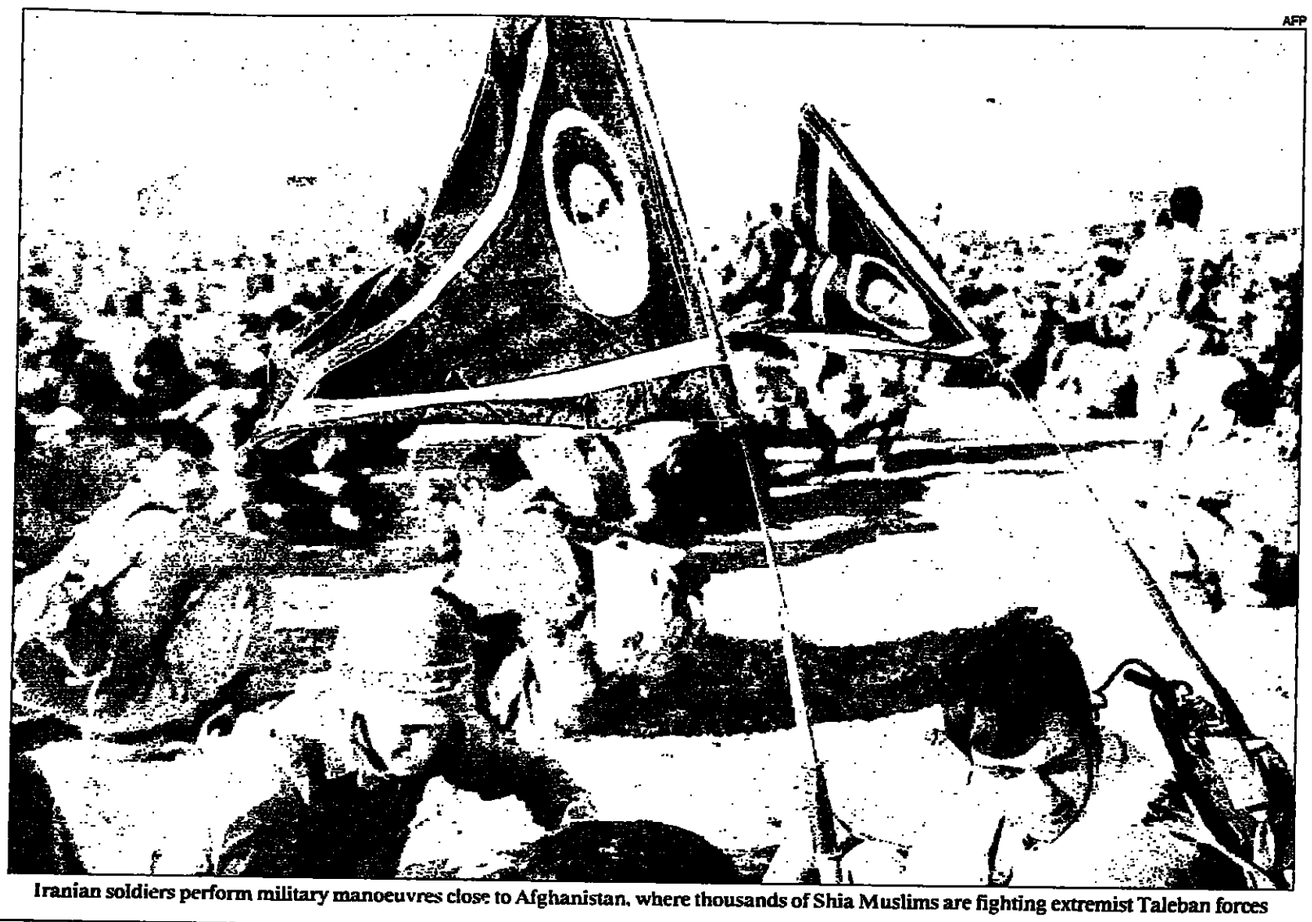


Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, pledged "no confrontation with Taleban" — a statement that cannot be regarded as the final word as regional tensions rise and Shias in Afghanistan face slaughter.

Amnesty International said thousands of civilians from the Hazara ethnic group were massacred by Taleban after it captured Mazar-i-Sharif. The slaughter has added to fears for Shias besieged in Bamiyan. They have an airstrip for supplies but are otherwise cut off.

Taleban is also besieging the only other big opposition stronghold, the Panjshir Valley held by Ahmed Shah Masood, the Tajik leader. Taleban jets have been pounding the area.

☐ **New York:** US intelligence officers drew up plans last spring for a covert raid to capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, *The New York Times* said yesterday. *(AP)*



AFP

Iranian soldiers perform military manoeuvres close to Afghanistan, where thousands of Shia Muslims are fighting extremist Taleban forces

Ban on logging to cut 1m jobs

FROM OWEN BROWN IN BEIJING

MORE than a million Chinese lumberjacks will trade their axes for shovels as part of a three-year plan to replant the forests of China and prevent a repeat of this summer's devastating floods.

Over-logging in central Sichuan province has been blamed for the worst flooding along the Yangtze in 44 years, with experts blaming millions of tons of silt washed each year into the upper reaches of the river for the record-high floods which have claimed more than 3,000 lives in the past three months.

The Government last week banned logging in Sichuan's 54 western counties, putting 4.6 million hectares of forest off limits to chainsaws, shutting down 65 timber mills and reducing production at a further 70 mills.

The State Forestry Administration estimated that the three-year ban would put more than a million people employed in China's timber industry out of work.

Li Yucai, deputy director of the forestry administration, said most laid-off workers would be given new jobs as tree planters.

A £1.5 billion investment strategy would ensure better protection for China's old-growth forests and eventually make lumber production mainly reliant on newly planted trees, Mr Li told the state-run Xinhua newsagency.

The total projected spending included £44 million earmarked this year for plantings in the upper Yangtze and Heilongjiang province in China's north-east, which bore the brunt of this year's floods.

Although China has 87 million hectares of forests, accounting for 9 per cent of its land, overlogging by illegal timber mills and farmers in isolated communities desperate for winter fuel prompted predictions that the country could be completely cleared of woodland in the next decade.

The International environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the move, but said the Government had acted too late. Ho Wai Chi, executive director of Greenpeace China said: "Something has to be done to improve farmers' livelihoods and allow them to survive without logging."

☐ **Rights pledge:** Mary Robinson, the United Nations human rights chief, vowed to ensure that an agreement she hopes Chinese leaders will sign during her visit to the country would have "practical implications" for advancing human rights. *(Reuters)*

Leading article, page 21

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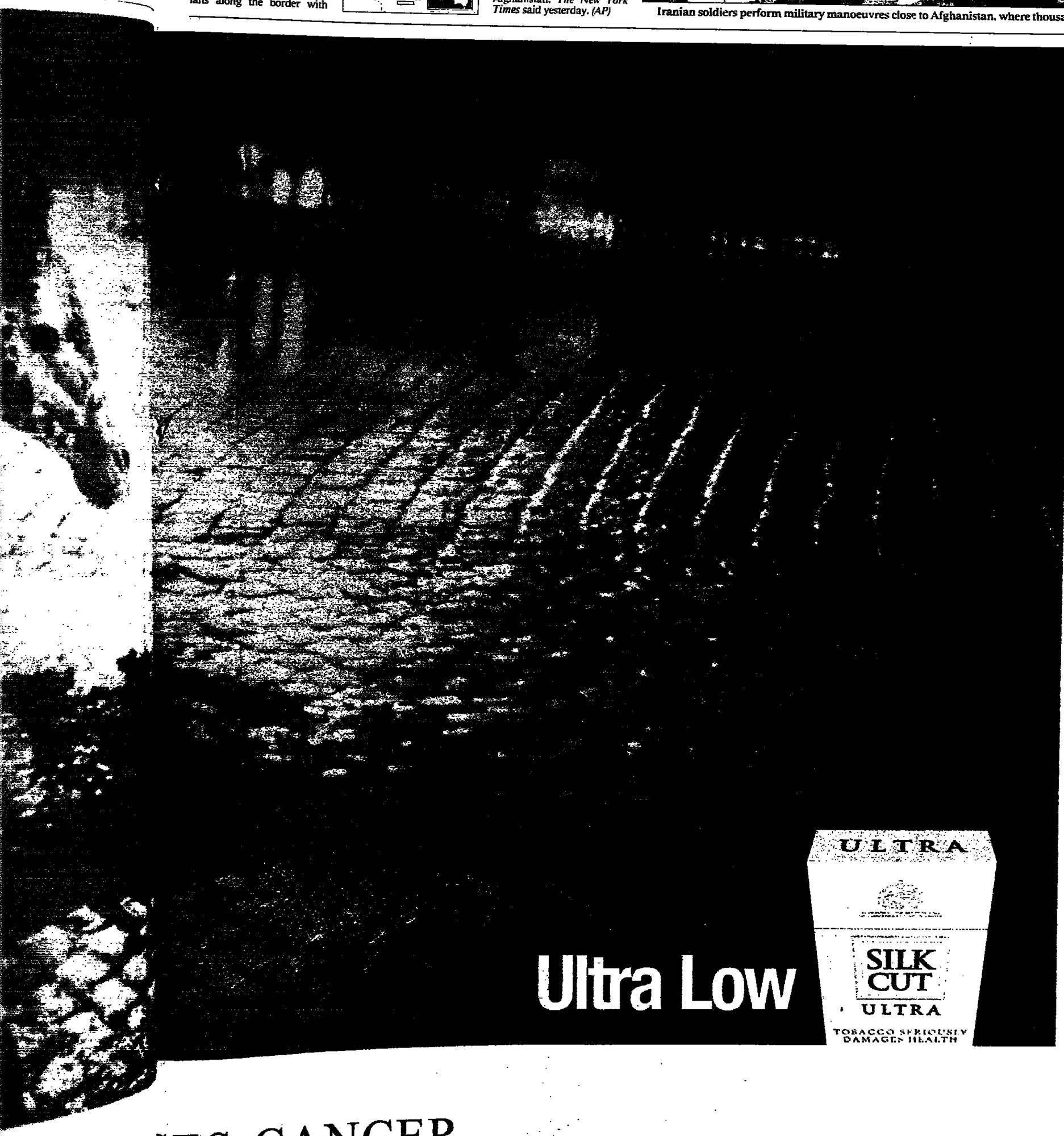
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Power of motion in the ocean

Giant windmills on the seabed may create vital energy, says **Anjana Ahuja**

Somewhere off the south-west coast an intriguing experiment is about to begin. A hole will be drilled in the seabed and an "underwater windmill" planted there, the first major step in a project to test whether the swirling currents in the ocean can be transformed into useful energy.

The immense power of the sea is locked into the tides. "Tides are set up when the Moon pulls the surface of the ocean," says Peter Fraenkel, the technical director of IT Power, the Hampshire firm that designed the windmill, or marine current turbine. "This causes the ocean to slope and therefore currents are set up."

The resulting flows are particularly strong when the water is forced around headlands or between two chunks of land. That makes the British Isles, with their jagged geography, an ideal testing ground.

A feasibility study by the company suggested that the currents in the Pentland Firth between Orkney and the Scottish mainland could produce 5,000 megawatts, equivalent to the output of five nuclear power stations — about 6 per cent of the nation's energy needs. A survey conducted for the Department of Trade and Industry showed that if all known currents surrounding the British Isles were harnessed, up to a fifth of our power needs could be met by marine current technology. And those are just the currents that have been documented; there are bound to be others lurking in unstudied areas.

This month, thanks to a £675,000 grant from the European Union, IT Power will get to build a full-scale turbine and anchor it off Devon or Cornwall. The turbine, which is unlikely to begin operation before 2000, will have blades about 15 metres long; these will be pushed round by the ocean currents, typically about 2-3 metres per second (about 4-6 knots) and generate about 300 kilowatts. A cable will carry the energy on to land and feed it into the National Grid. Eventually, Mr Fraenkel envisages that there could be clusters of turbines dotted around British waters, silently and cleanly siphoning off the sea's limitless energy and pumping it into our homes. The cost of 6p per kilowatt hour is three times that of electricity produced by conventional means but it would drop if the turbines were mass-produced.

There has been a successful small-scale test of the marine current concept in Scotland. That trial, using a 3.5 metre turbine, was done in conjunction with Scottish Nuclear; the idea fell by the wayside after Scottish Nuclear was taken over. But it gave an idea of the difficulties involved.

"We anchored a pontoon and hung the turbine underneath," says Mr Fraenkel. "But because the seabed was hard rock with a slimy covering, the chains dragged. So we now think the best approach would be to drill a hole and drop the turbine in. That way it stays there."

Seacore, a Cornish firm, will do the drilling. Other partners are the University of Kassel in Germany, and ITT Flygt, a Swedish firm that will manufacture the turbines.

A study by marine biologists around Orkney and Shetland concludes that environmental impact would be minimal. The turbines, or sails, rotate so slowly that sea animals can move out of the way, and because all the action takes place in the water, noise is minimal.

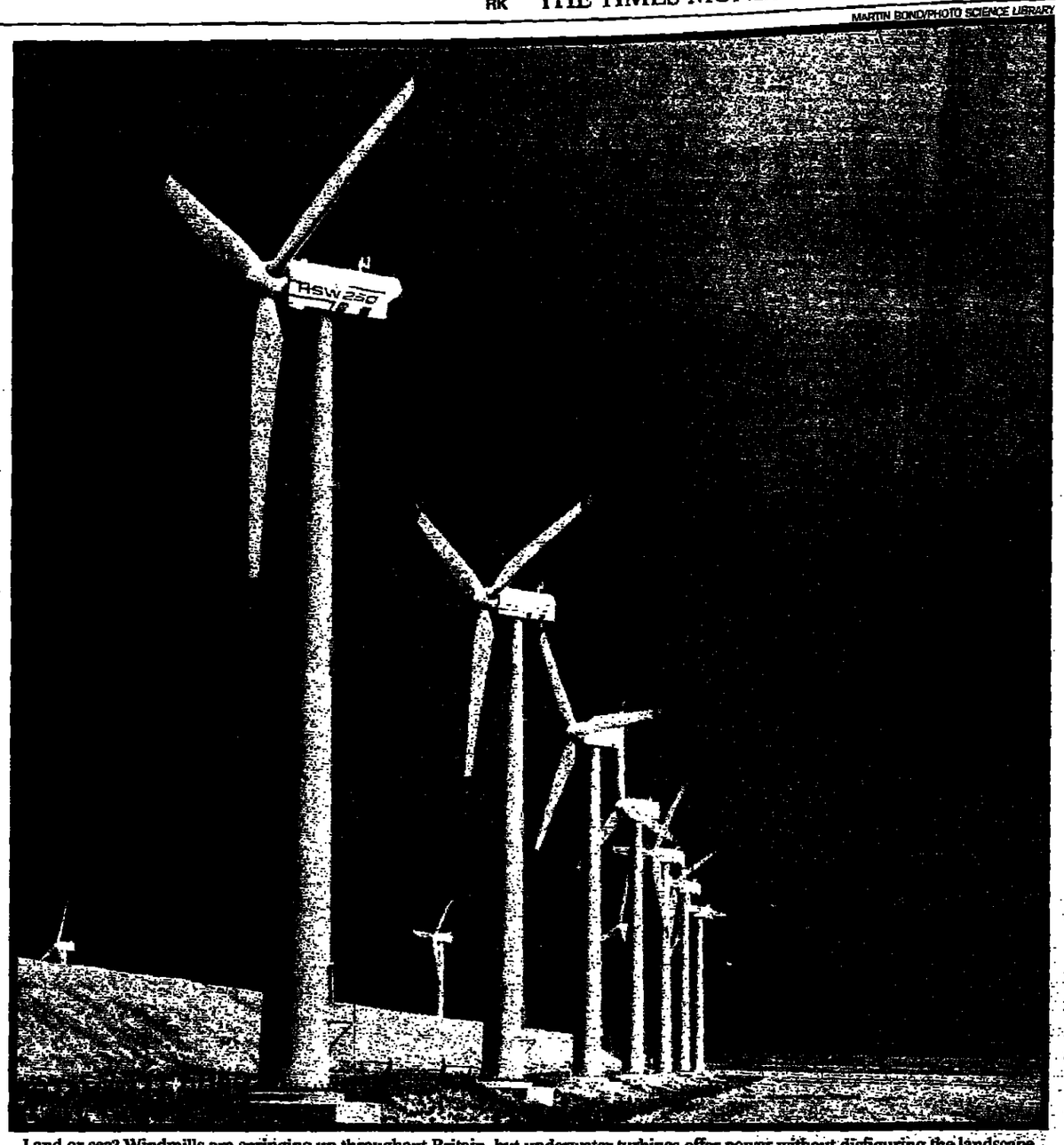
"If this gets off the ground, the biggest problem would be fishing nets getting caught in the turbines," Mr Fraenkel says. "There would need to be an exclusion zone for shipping, and we would need permission from Trinity House, which oversees shipping. But the strongest currents tend to be around rocky coastlines, which are hazardous anyway."

Wind farms, which have been springing up all over Britain, have been touted as the environmentally friendly way to produce energy. Yet underwater windmills have advantages over their land counterparts. They are less of an eyesore and noise nuisance (although there would need to be a sign of the turbines above water to alert ships). The currents also ebb and flow in a predictable way, unlike wind. And currents vary around the coast; even when one set of turbines isn't operating, another can take up the slack.

The outlook isn't all rosy. The turbines could be hazardous to operate and maintain in bad weather. Seawater corrosion must also be taken into account. But the system will weigh less because it is submerged. So steel and concrete, which are cheap and hardy, could be used for the turbines; land windmills use expensive plastics and carbon fibre.

If these underwater generators are such a good idea, why has it taken so long to try them out? The main reason, Mr Fraenkel says, is that offshore engineering is so much more sophisticated than it once was.

"To drill a hole in the seabed 20 years ago and drop a pile in would have been science fiction — and then everyone used coal and didn't give a damn about the environment. Also, the UK and EU have set targets for 10 per cent of all energy to come from renewable sources. We can't meet them unless we go into the sea."



Land or sea? Windmills are springing up throughout Britain, but underwater turbines offer power without disfiguring the landscape

Face the fats: sugar is not a diet disaster

NOBODY gets fat overnight, but many people do so during a decade or so.

A man of ideal weight at the age of 20, who puts on just a few pounds every six months, will be clinically obese by 35. In middle age such insidious weight gain becomes increasingly difficult to prevent. The answer, to judge by the results of a recent five-nation study, is to try to lose weight just as slowly and surely. And, as any dieter knows, most diets fail.

But the Carmen study (for Carbohydrate Manipulation in European National diets) achieved success by shifting to a diet lower in fat but higher in starches and sugars. Volunteers were taught to choose the right foods and they were allowed to eat as much as they wanted. The results were undramatic, but encouraging.

More than 300 overweight people from Spain, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany and Britain were put into one of three groups. One continued with their normal diet, while the other two switched to diets lower in fat. Instead of receiving about 36 per cent of their food energy from fat, they got 30 per cent.

To make up for it, one of the lower-fat groups was encouraged to eat lots of starchy food — bread, potatoes and pasta — while the other combined such foods with sugar and foods containing sugar. The aim was to discover not only whether those diets lower in fat cut weight, but whether they were sustainable over six months, and whether filling up on sugar negated the benefits.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

The results, reported by Dr Wim Saris of Maastricht University in The Netherlands to the International Obesity Congress in Paris last week, show that both low-fat groups lost weight. The starch and sugar group lost, on average, 1.8kg (4lb) during the six months, and the starch-alone group 0.94kg. The group that stuck with their normal diet gained 0.82 kg.

If these rates of weight loss could be sustained indefinitely, then they would make a big contribution to controlling the growing Western "epidemic" of obesity. In Britain 11 per cent of men between 35 and 49 are obese, while 11 per cent of women are obese by 35.

A particularly gratifying result for the sugar industry (which, together with the European Union, financed the Carmen study) was that eating sugar rather than other carbohydrates had no deleterious effects either in terms of weight loss or on cholesterol levels.

SA studies Sixties generation

SOUTH AFRICA'S electricity giant, Eskom, is looking at a nuclear technology that has been neglected since the Sixties. The company favours developing the high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor — a design that was explored in Europe and America before water-cooled reactors swept all before them. These reactors were technically successful but failed to be commercialised because of cutbacks in nuclear spending, and a failure to appreciate the inherent design advantages.

Eskom — one of the world's biggest electricity generators, with 38,000 megawatts of installed capacity — says that a high-temperature reactor, cooled by helium and fuelled by pebbles of uranium dioxide coated with silicon carbide, has many advantages.

By operating at high temperatures using helium, which is chemically and radiologically inert, it would be possible to drive a gas turbine directly from the hot helium in a closed cycle — increasing thermal efficiency from the 35 per cent to 45 per cent.

The reactor would be intrinsically safe, since even if an accident occurred, heat loss from the fuel would always exceed the generation of decay heat, meaning that emergency-core cooling systems would not be needed.

Eskom argues that these advantages would mean electricity generation at prices competitive with those of any other fuel. It estimates that a base load station operating for 40 years would produce power for less than 1p per kilowatt-hour. It is now looking for experts to carry out an environmental assessment of the design before deciding whether to build a pilot plant.

In defence of the birds



SOME ground-nesting birds go to heroic efforts to build ramparts of flat stone in front of their nests. The blackstart, which lives in the deserts of the Middle East, is a small bird but the female will cheerfully spend four or five days fetching stones to create a mosaic several layers deep, up to 2ft wide and 3ft deep in front of the rock crevices where it nests.

Ornithologists have put forward many explanations, including protection from wind, a means of controlling temperature variations in the nest, simple sexual display, or discouraging predators. Dr Noam Leader and Dr Yoram Yom-Tov of Tel Aviv University watched blackstarts (*Cercomela melanura*) in En-Gedi nature reserve on the west shore of the Dead Sea to try to discover the true reason for a behaviour which is costly both in time and energy.

They conclude in *Animal Behaviour* that the stones serve not to deter predators, but to provide an early warning of their arrival. Birds which nest in crevices have nowhere to go if an animal such as the spiny mouse, a large omnivorous rodent, appears at the entrance. But if the mouse has to tiptoe through a pebble rampart, surprise is lost and the bird can escape.

The zoologists found it almost impossible to approach blackstart nests without alerting the birds, even when they were 30ft or more away. But mice make much less noise, so to mimic their behaviour the scientists rigged up a nylon cord to a stone in the rampart and pulled. They found the noise this caused was quite sufficient to send the female rocketing from the nest.

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The sensual glamour of the geisha







TOP LEFT: Grey vintage silk kimono, £72, from a selection at Neal St East, 5 Neal St, London WC2. Tel: 0171-240 0135. Long grey lace dress, £650, by Abe Hamilton available from Koh Samui, 65 Monmouth St WC1. Grey beaded earrings, approximately £72, by Donatella Pellini, available from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1 or Harrods, Knightsbridge. Tel: 0171-225 1694.

ABOVE: Claret and velvet coat with silk lining, £957. Gold and lilac silk dress, £455. Available from Krizia, 25 Conduit St W1. Tel: 0171-491 4987.

FAR LEFT: Violet and gold embroidered quilted coat available from a selection at Ghost, 36 Ledbury Rd W11. Violet satin plunge-back slip dress, £165, by Ghost and available at Browns, 23-27 South Molton St W1; Willy's, 24 Gandy St, Exeter.

LEFT: Green metallic and chiffon kaftan coat, £651, by Rifat Ozbek. Matching dress with beading detail, £278, by Ozbek, both available at Browns, as above. Green velvet flip-flops, £11.95, from Neal St East, as above.

Photographer: LUCY FITTER
Stylist: Nicola Goldie at Mandy Coakley
Make-up: Britta D at Mandy Coakley, using Esteé Lauder
Hair: Paul Vincent Brown at Michaeljohn, using Michaeljohn products.

Wearing a kimono is as much a state of mind as a flamboyant fashion statement, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

Even Cherie Blair read *Memoirs of a Geisha* this summer. The tale of Chiyu, sold as an apprentice geisha in the 1930s, has proved a compulsive read for many. Her mastery of ancient ritual, her triumph over the wicked senior geisha and her struggle to become the adopted daughter of the house are gripping stuff.

For fashion people, however, these attractions are surpassed by the alluring depictions of Japanese kimonos. Dressing gowns, decadent daywear that owes much to nightwear, kimonos are the latest take on the bohemian mood that has been sweeping fashion for a few seasons now.

You will either feel comfortable in them or you won't — but if they are your thing, then age need not be an impediment. These flamboyant, ageless clothes are about mental attitude, not the date on the birth certificate.

But what mental attitude exactly? It can go in two directions: totally Zen or 1920s house party.

It was the latter that Paul Smith was striving for in his first women's wear show, turning a warehouse in Chelsea into a country house, with chesterfields and chaises longues lining the catwalk. His floral silk kimono was the strongest look of the show.

Beyond the catwalk, the best advert for this second look came last Monday in *The Mrs Bradley Mysteries*. Did anyone else swoon at the numbers Diana Rigg wore to bed? This was a costume drama in the most literal sense, all silk dressing gowns and flowing headscarves.

If you go in the other direction, Zen isn't as scary as it sounds. Ideally, you should invite your friends over for a Zen kind of evening: you might, after all, feel a little silly going to the local sushi bar in a richly patterned dressing gown.

Still, there's a long artistic tradition to the look. Toulouse-Lautrec, Mucha and Klimt were all inspired by the kimono — Lautrec even took to wandering about in one.

If you'd like to own one, but don't want to spend the earth, or if, indeed, you only want to wear it in the safety of your home, then you're best off hunting around for an antique one. Neal Street East is a good place to start, although any specialist shop should be able to lay its hands on one.

Splashing out is a doddle (as always), though you can comfort yourself with the idea that some of these designs will be worth handing on to your grandchildren.

Others are more fashion-led. Ghost's dressing-gown coat hits two trends in one (it is quilted: another hot look for winter), while the claret and gold coat and dress by the Italian designer Krizia is a wonderful — and far from eccentric — evening combination.

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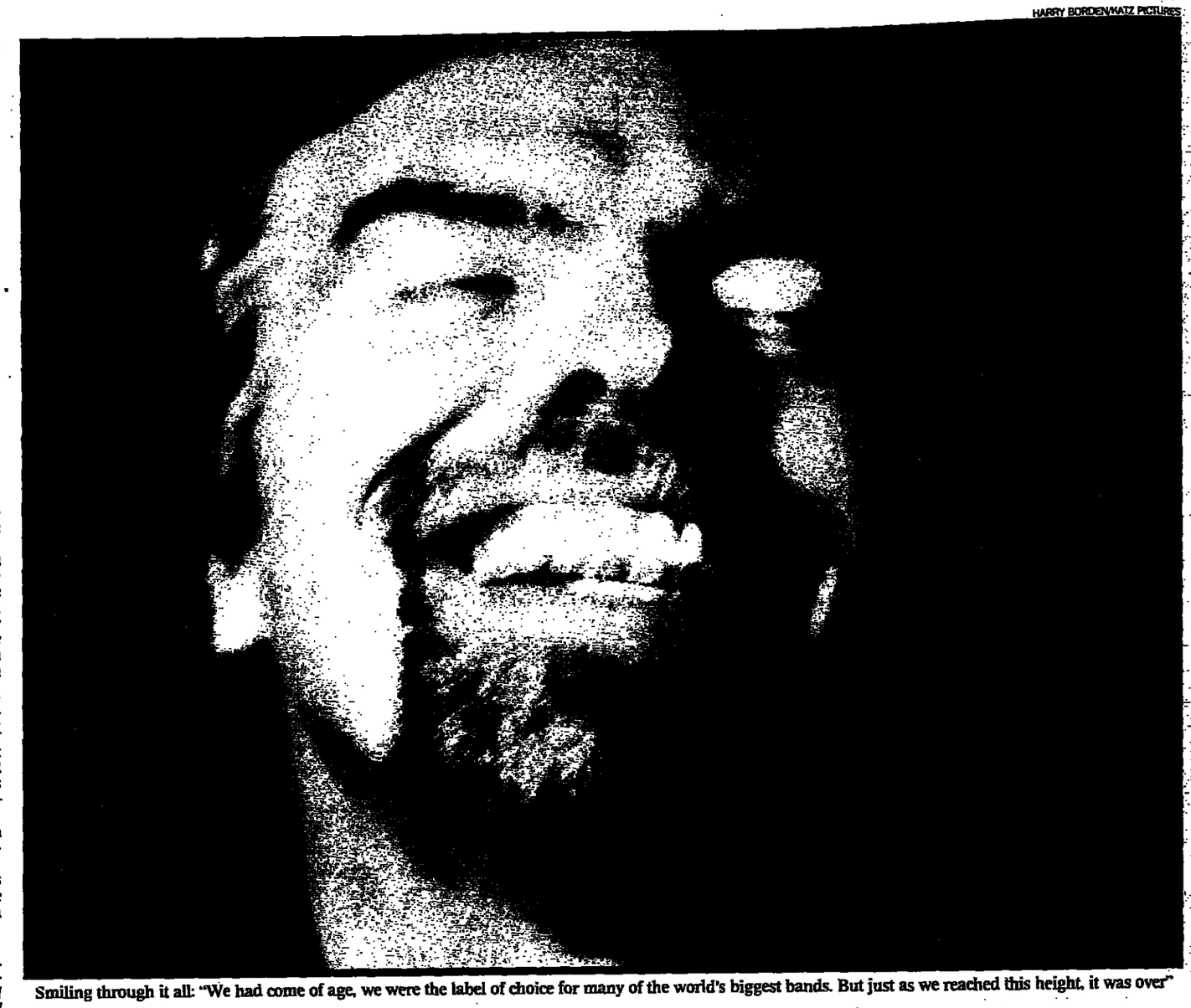
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RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY



The tears streamed from my

Today, in the first extract from his autobiography, Richard Branson describes some of his musical highs and lows and tells of his despair as he was forced to sell the company that made his name



HARRY BORDEN/KATZ PICTURES

Smiling through it all: "We had come of age, we were the label of choice for many of the world's biggest bands. But just as we reached this height, it was over"

There was £560 million — $1 billion — on the table, but I didn't want it. "They need to know by 2pm this afternoon," John Thornton, an investment banker at Goldman Sachs, told me. I rang off. I looked across at Simon Draper, one of the driving forces behind Virgin Music. It was 1992. We had spent the past 20 years building up the company, but nothing had prepared us for selling it.

In many ways the signing of the Rolling Stones was the culmination of everything I had ever wanted to do at Virgin Music. We had been fighting to sign them for 20 years, and now at last we had the greatest rock and roll band in the world on our label. We had now come of age: now we were the label of choice for many of the world's biggest bands. But, just as we reached this height, it was over. I had to have more money to support Virgin Atlantic. The pressure from British Airways was too great.

By now I felt so sure that the bank was going to foreclose on us that I felt we had no alternative. My overriding objective was to save Virgin Atlantic from going under and — cruelly — the only reason I was selling Virgin Music was because it was so successful. If I sold Virgin Music, the Virgin name would be saved. Rather than having one struggling airline and a record company, there would be a secure airline and a secure record company, albeit owned by Thorn EMI.

Although I saved the airline, I felt I had killed something inside me. It was like the death of a child. When I addressed the staff I was on the verge of tears. I couldn't tell them the real reason why the company had been sold. If I told them the truth about the bank's attitude to Virgin Atlantic, then the airline and the rest of Virgin's companies would be damaged.

And so, hating myself for having cashed in, I stood there and offered everybody a job at Virgin Atlantic if they were unhappy. When one of the staff passed a vote of thanks for "the best years of our lives," I could bear it no longer. I left the room and set off at a sprint down Ladbroke Grove, tears streaming down my face.

Oblivious to the stares of passers-by, I must have run for almost a mile. When I passed a newspaper stand I saw a poster that should have dried the eyes of most grown men: BRANSON SELLS FOR £560 MILLION CASH. I ran past it, tears still streaming down my face, and somehow made my way home.

Feeling thoroughly depressed I wrote in my notebook: "Decided to go the conservative route for the first time in my life."

After paying off our Japanese investors we still had more than £390 million. We had more disposable cash than British Airways.

Richard Branson's first venture, branching out from Student *— a hip, low-budget magazine — was the Virgin Mail Order record company. But the postal strikes of 1971 threatened to bankrupt the company. His answer was to rent a small shop in Oxford Street and start selling records quickly, before the money ran out.*

ONCE VIRGIN had the record shops and the recording studio, we started talking about the third part of the grandiose scheme.

If Virgin set up a record label, then we could offer artists somewhere to record (for which we could charge them); we could publish and release their records (from which we could make profit); and we had a large and growing chain of shops where we could promote and sell their records (and make the retail profit margin).

The first artist we wanted to sign up with Virgin Music was Mike Oldfield, the third reserve guitarist from *Hair*.

"I'll need to rent some instruments," Mike warned me.

"Like what?" I pulled out my diary and prepared a list.

"A good acoustic guitar, a Spanish guitar, a Farfisa organ, a Fender precision bass, a Fender amplifier, glockenspiel, a mandolin, a mellotron . . ."

"What's that?" I drew a circle round it.

"It's not absolutely necessary," Mike conceded. "A triangle, a Gibson guitar . . . Oh, and some chimes, of course."

"What are chimes?" I asked.

"Tubular bells."

I wrote down "tubular bells" and set about finding all these instruments in a music magazine. The guitar cost £35, the Spanish guitar £25, the Fender amplifier £45, the mandolin £15, and the triangle was a bargain at £1. The tubular bells cost £20.

"£20 for tubular bells?" I said. "They'd better be worth it."

It took Mike well into 1973 to record what become known as *Tubular Bells*. It was a fantastically complicated sequence of recordings to make and he went over it again and again in the recording studio, mixing, dubbing, and fine-tuning all the different layers of music. Mike played more than 20 different instruments and made more than 2,300 different recordings until he was happy.

Of Virgin's first four albums it was *Tubular Bells* that really captured people's imagination: it was completely original and immediately spellbinding. People found it addictive and played it again and again, both to listen to the music and to marvel at how Mike had woven it all together.

A grand *Tubular Bells* concert was planned to bring the national press to witness the music celebrity of the moment. It was to be an unmissable event.

On the day of the concert Mike came round to see me on the houseboat.

"Richard," he said quietly, "I can't go through with this concert tonight."

I felt a wave of despair. I tried to forget that the whole concert was arranged, the tickets sold and even television coverage agreed.

"Let's go for a drive," I said innocuously, and led the way to my old Bentley parked outside. I knew that Mike had always admired this battleship-grey car with its faded red leather seats. We drove off with Mike sitting bolt upright. After a monosyllabic drive we reached the Queen Elizabeth Hall and I slowed down. There were Mike Oldfield posters everywhere. Already a crowd of people were making their way to the concert.

"I can't go on to the stage," Mike repeated.

"Do you want to drive?"

"All right," Mike said cautiously.

We drove on, over Westminster Bridge, past Victoria.

"Mike," I said. "Would you like to have this car? As a present?"

"A present?"

"Yes. I'll get out here and walk home. You just keep on driving and the car's yours."

"Come off it! It was your wedding present."

"All you have to do is then drive it round to the Queen Elizabeth Hall and go up on stage tonight. It's yours."

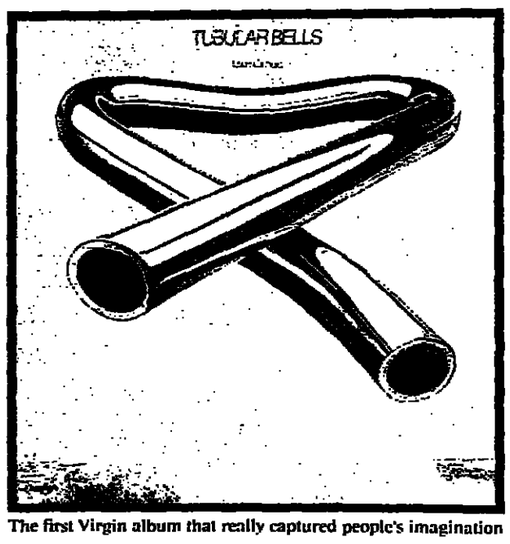
A silence fell between us. I watched Mike as he held the steering wheel and I imagined himself driving this car. I knew he was tempted. I hoped he would agree.

"It's a deal," Mike said.

I would have to tell Kristen and then my parents what I had done with our Bentley, but I knew they wouldn't mind too much. For all its charm and sentimental value, the Bentley was just a car. It was vital to get Mike up on stage. If he was successful, I would be able to pick up any car I wanted.

That night we sold hundreds of copies of *Tubular Bells*. Mike was too shattered to speak to the press. Looking at all the people cheering and crowding round to buy his record, he said: "I feel as if I've been raped," and disappeared off in his new Bentley. Mike refused to go back on stage for many years afterwards. From that night onward, Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* was set to become the most celebrated album of the year. Virgin Music was on the map and the money started rolling in.

IN THE SUMMER of 1976 we had a crisis meeting to go through the Virgin Roster. One by one we debated whether we could afford to keep such acts as Hatfield and the North or Dave Bedford that cost us money to promote and looked unlikely ever to break into the big time. We cut back on whatever we could. First we sold our cars. Then we had to drop a few artists from the record label and make nine staff redundant.



The first Virgin album that really captured people's imagination

One of the artists we reluctantly dropped was Dave Bedford, a brilliantly gifted classical composer. Dave reacted very well to the bad news: he wrote a long letter to me saying how much he understood the decision, that he appreciated that his records had not sold, that he would have done the same if he were in my shoes, that he bore Virgin no grudges and wished us all the best for the future. At the same time he wrote a letter to Mike Oldfield in which he described me as a complete shit, an utter bastard and a vile, tone-deaf money-grabbing parasite on musical talent. Unfortunately for Dave, he then put the letters in the wrong envelopes.

THE SEX PISTOLS were a turning point for us, the band we had been looking for. They put Virgin on the map, generating more newspaper cuttings than anything else in 1977, apart from the Silver Jubilee itself. Their notoriety was practically a tangible asset. Most of the press was negative but so had it been for The Rolling Stones when they had set out 15 years earlier.

In November 1977, Virgin released *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols*. The lettering on the album sleeve was a brilliant design by Jamie Reid, crudely cut out from newspaper headlines in the same way as hate mail and kidnappers' notes were delivered. Virgin shops put large yellow posters in their windows advertising the record. One day the manager of our shop in Nottingham was arrested under the Indecent Advertisements Act of 1889. I called John Mortimer, who had defended me ten years previously on a similar charge.

"I'm afraid we've fallen foul of the Indecent Advertisements Act again," I told him. "The police are saying that we can't use the word 'bollocks'."

"Bollocks?" he asked. "What on earth's wrong with bollocks? It's one of my favourite words."

He told me that we needed a linguistic adviser, a professor of English who could define the exact meaning of "bollocks" for us. Since the case had been brought in Nottingham, I called up Nottingham University and was put through to Professor James Kingsley. He told me: "The word 'bollocks' is an 18th-century nickname for priests. And then, because priests generally seemed to speak such a lot of nonsense in their sermons, 'bollocks' gradually came to mean 'rubbish'."

I enjoyed the court case. The police prosecutor was determined to win what was clearly a case of national importance. Our shop manager was cross-examined and the police officer recited how he had arrested him since he was displaying this offensive poster. The policeman had the smug look of someone who was doing the public a great service and expected to be praised for it.

"No questions," Mortimer said when he was invited to cross-examine the policeman.

Rather disappointed, the policeman stood down.

"I would like to call my witness," Mortimer said when he stood up. "Professur James Kingsley, Professor of Linguistics at Nottingham University."

As Professor Kingsley explained that "bollocks" was nothing to do with testicles but actually meant "priests" and then — due to priests' sermons being full of it — "rubbish". John Mortimer peered at him myopically and appeared to be struggling to straighten out his thoughts.

"So, Professor Kingsley, are you saying that this expression 'Never mind the bollocks, here's The Sex Pistols', which is the basis of this prosecution, should more accurately be translated as 'Never mind the priests, here's The Sex Pistols'?" asked Mortimer.

"I am. Or it could mean 'Never mind the rubbish, here's The Sex Pistols'."

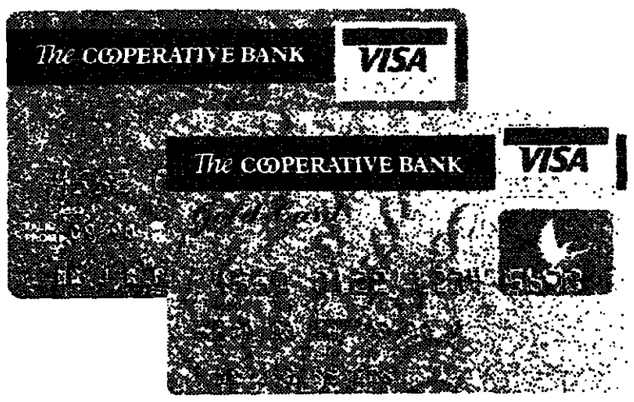
John Mortimer allowed a silence to develop in the court. "'Never mind the priests, here's The Sex Pistols'," he mused. "That is the meaning of this expression. Well, I have nothing further to add. It sounds like a strange title for a record, but I doubt whether the Church would mind."

The prosecutor then pressed Professor Kingsley on this point, asking him how he could be sure that no clergyman would be offended.

Professor Kingsley then played his trump card by folding down his polo neck

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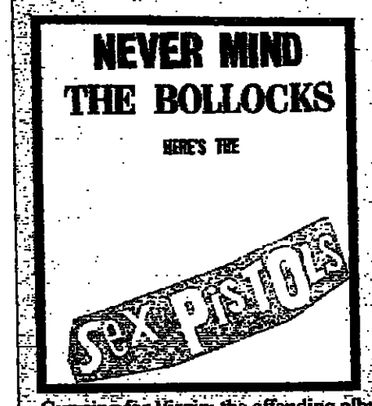
face as I ran down the road





Boy makes good: Culture Club's *Karma Chameleon* hit No 1 in every country that had a chart; inside the Virgin shop

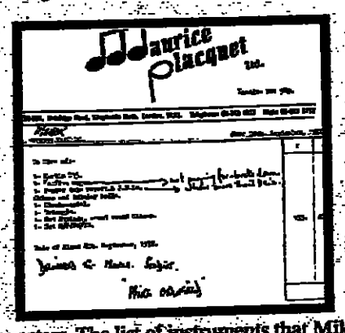






Gunning for Virgin: the offending album that led to a court case. Right, the first Virgin Records store, in Notting Hill





Going with the flow: the houseboat that was Branson's home and headquarters. The list of instruments that Mike Oldfield, above, requested and which were later used in *Tubular Bells*

to reveal a dog collar. Professor Kingsley was also the Rev James Kingsley.

"That's enough," snapped the magistrate. He straightened his back, squared his shoulders and, adopting as much magisterial solemnity as he could muster, announced:

"The case is dismissed."

IN 1975, I HAD tried but failed to sign the Rolling Stones but I did come across them at the Virgin recording studios. I was there one weekend when they were lounging around the sitting room after an all-night session.

Keith Richards was still in bed with his girlfriend, a Jamaican. There was a crunch of gravel outside and a frenzied knocking at the door. The Stones were all lying around drinking coffee and waking up, so I got up and opened the door.

A tall Jamaican in a purple jacket stood in front of me.

"Where is she?" he demanded, giving the name of the girl who was upstairs with Keith.

I had assumed that the girl was Keith's girlfriend. It was quickly clear that I was wrong. As I hesitated, he pulled out a gun and pointed it in my face.

As I looked speechlessly at the pistol, out of the corner of my eye I noticed two naked figures tiptoeing out of a side door. It was Keith and the girl. They took a quick look at the Jamaican and then broke into a sprint across the lawn behind him. I admired their speed. Keith's hair flapped up and down his white back as he tore along and hurdled the wooden fence in a great leap. The girl kept up with him, running as if her life depended upon it — which perhaps it did. They both cleared the railings, landed in the field and sped towards the river.

The Jamaican realised that my attention had wavered from his gun and spun round to follow my gaze. He saw the two bare bottoms, one black the other white, gave an inarticulate roar of rage and ran to his car. He revved up and tore off down the drive, trying to cut them off. I lost sight of them. I still wonder how they escaped.

MIKE OLDFIELD had been a lifelong introvert but now he wanted to get married.

"How long have you known her?" I asked.

"Three days."

"Don't you have to wait?"

"I can't wait," he said. "She won't sleep with me until we're married. It's tomorrow, at Chelsea Register Office."

Having failed to talk him out of it, my wife Joan and I went along to the register office and waited for Mike and his bride. We brought two carved African stools with us as wedding presents. We put them down on the pavement outside and sat on them awaiting Mike's arrival.

Mike and Sarah were married and we gave them the stools. We had dinner together that night, but the evening ended early since Mike was so clearly intent on getting Sarah into bed. The next morning the phone rang.

"Richard, I want a divorce." It was Mike.

"What's wrong?"

"We're not compatible," Mike said, in a voice that brooked no further questions.

Mike and Sarah went more or less straight from the register office to the lawyers and he ended up paying her more than £200,000 in alimony. My mind boggles at what went on that night but whatever happened it must go down as one of the most expensive one-night stands in history.

FOR CHRISTMAS 1982, we released Culture Club's first album, Kissing to Be Clever, which sold four million copies around the world. And then in January came another amazing breakthrough: their fourth single, *Karma Chameleon*, was the top-selling single of 1983, selling more than 1.4 million copies in the UK and reaching No 1 in every country around the world that had a chart. Culture Club were a worldwide pop phenomenon and their second album, *Colour by Numbers*, sold almost ten million copies.

Virgin's finances were thrown upside down: from the £900,000 loss in 1980, we made a profit of £2 million in 1982 on sales of £50 million. In 1983 our sales shot up to £94 million and our profits soared to £11 million. Once we had started the Boy George fan club, it was impossible to control it, and in 1983 40 per cent of our profits came from Boy George.

For the first two years the Culture Club story was the perfect model. The extraordinary thing about the record industry is how success can take off without warning. One minute nobody had heard of Boy George; the next every person around the world from Ireland to Korea and Japan to Ghana was humming *Karma Chameleon*. Many people find such a vertical run frightening and would be right in thinking it creates havoc in a company. Happily, I have always thrived on havoc and adrenalin and so I felt perfectly at home as we fanned the flames of Culture Club's success.

● *Extracted from* Losing My Viriginity: The Autobiography *by Richard Branson, to be published by Virgin Publishing on September 17 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £18 by calling* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright Richard Branson 1998*

TOMORROW



'If I'm going to stop British Airways, then I'm going to need proof.' How Branson took on Lord King, and the inside story of BA's 'dirty tricks' campaign

Thanks a million, Prince Rupert

During that rather awkward patch between 1974 and 1976, when Mike Oldfield was our only superstar, I pitched unsuccessfully for the Rolling Stones. When I called up the Stones' manager, Prince Rupert Loewenstein, he was prepared to listen to me.

"How much are you asking for?" I asked him.

"You'll never be able to afford it," Prince Rupert told me sympathetically. "It'll be at least $3 million. And, anyway, Virgin is just too small."

I knew that the only way to get his attention was to considerably better that offer.

"I'll offer you $4 million." I told him. "As long as there is some back catalogue available."

Buying the back catalogue would enable Virgin to release a greatest hits album and would be a good insurance policy if the new record failed.

"I'll send you round the list of the back catalogue that's available." Prince Rupert said. "If you can bring a bank guarantee for $4 million to my office by Monday, then I'll look at it very seriously. Best of luck."

That was on Friday. Prince Rupert assumed that he had set me an impossible task.

That weekend I travelled around the chain of Virgin distributors we had set up across Europe in France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Sweden and Norway. As I travelled I was constantly on the telephone to those in the rest of the world. I was looking to raise about £250,000 from each distributor.

By Monday morning I was back in London but still some way short of the $4 million. After adding up all the different commitments from the distributors, Coutts promised to make up the difference. I drove round to Prince Rupert's house in Petersham just before 11 o'clock with a bank guarantee for $4million.

Prince Rupert was dumbfounded. I had caught him completely off guard. He fingered the $4 million cheque but then gave it back.

"You'll have a chance to match the highest bidder," he promised. "But you've started an auction."

In the end EMI won the auction, with a bid of $5 million, and signed the Rolling Stones. I couldn't raise any more than the $4 million. Although I was disappointed to have failed, I knew that I had done the Stones a good turn by increasing the asking price from the $3 million Prince Rupert would have been happy to accept.

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MUSIC

Barenboim and Chicago come to the Proms

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

EDINBURGH

Cafe-ula grin comes up trumps



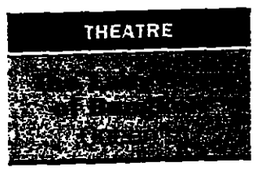
DONALD COOPER



Show with all the frills: some of the Lady Boys of Bangkok strut their exceedingly simple stuff, but is it Pom, Vut, Nut or Oh? We'll never know

The sugar and spice boys

THEATRE



Glittering and fatuous, this world-touring show has one point of interest: its girls started life as boys. Some of them still are boys but are saving up to become girls, or so I am given to understand. The glossy programme is silent on this issue, as upon such others as the identities of the performers. Photos of delicately featured, sweetly smiling Thais appear alongside polysyllabic names but when it comes to finding out who is actually singing *I Will Survive*, *My Way* and, inevitably, *I Am What I Am*, all we are given is nicknames. The Spice Girls number, for instance, is sung by Tud Too, Ploy, Nong, Too and Lhee; elsewhere we find Pom, Vut, Nut and Oh.

So here is a company of transsexuals and transvestites who usually perform in a club in Bangkok but are now strutting their simple stuff at a suitably named London venue. Eleven numbers in the first half, another 11 in the second. Each ends with a blackout, a pause ensues, then up go the lights for the next scene, though we must wait for the costumes to tell us if we are now in Japan (fans), Hawaii (white furry doughnuts perched above their heads), China, Brazil or decadent Berlin. For the finale we get a grand staircase copiously iced with sparkles, and just short of two hours after the opening number we can go home.

The music comes with an insistent heavy beat and the words are mimed, which is the style for almost all drag cabaret, though the match of lip to sound is seldom as rudimentary as this. The plump singer identified as June does manage to keep up with the twittering trills of a parody Italian aria, but elsewhere the synching is erratic.

As for the choreography, this is truly basic. A step this way, a step that, bring the feet together, start again. There's so little interest to be found in watching all this as dance or as mime that we are thrown back on wondering who has had the op and who not. I won't deny it: the less they wear the more intriguing (up to a point) this aspect of the show becomes. One or two costumes are too small to have names but what they cover indicates, so to speak, nothing.

When male dancers join the — what does one say? — the others, the contrast between the two sorts of leg is striking. Here is a leopard god in spotted underpants, black boots and pheasant feathers, and his thighs ripple with masculine musculature. Around him step slim smooth legs that have no calves at all.

But after a while even this prurient speculation palls. The music bangs along, now tinny, now fuzzy; on comes the next group of furs, gowns, feathered headdresses and courteous smiles; the legs move about, frenziedly or not, and then it's the end at last.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Life in the old gal yet

OPERA

La Bohème

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Whatever the perceived virtues and vices of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, one thing is for sure. Its sturdy support of British Youth Opera, of which the Princess was Patron, has this year provided both a healthy number of bursaries for young singers to take part in BYO's intensive summer training programme, and a formidable night's entertainment into the bargain.

In Jamie Hayes's new production of *La Bohème* the bustle of the Latin quarter fills the stage before a note has sounded. And the energy of the outside world spills over into the icy garret as the horseplay of four robustly characterised Bohemians counterpoints vigorously with the deft and sharply detailed orchestral playing drawn from the pit by the conductor Roy Laughlin.

Laughlin is the head of music at the National Opera Studio, and doubtless made his own shrewd nominations to the cast: Terence den Dulk, a resonant Marcello, has studied there and so has the evening's Rodolfo, Peter Auty. His tenor is capacious and muscular: like 23-year-old Ee-Ping Lee's Mimi, her soprano rich with dark undertones and fearlessly integrated throughout its range. Auty's performance needs only the refinement of nuance to release the frisson factor.

But it is thrilling to see such a youthful and red-blooded *Bohème*. Not only does this Mimi clearly have the breath to blow out an entire churchful of candles, and this Rodolfo the ardour to fight his way back into her life: the entire Queen Elizabeth Hall comes alive with the swagger of this production.

Street-sellers throng the wings of the stage; the excellent children's chorus brightens the rapidly turning kaleidoscope of the Café Momus act; the Bohemians jostle, and even the band is positioned to play high up in the auditorium, sounding behind and around the audience.

The Café Momus also introduces Natalie Christie's irresistible Musetta. Her voice leaps out of her tiny, tense body like a champagne cork; and the glinting coloratura within is also able to expand into long lines of reflection which, particularly in the last act, still all around her.

Come to this *Bohème* prepared to be reinvigorated rather than to have the withers wrung, and to witness superbly coached Puccini being regenerated from the inside. There are further performances tomorrow and on Thursday.

HILARY FINCH

A split second of Birtwistle

PROMS

Albert Hall, Boulez

By any standards the Chicago Symphony is a great orchestra. Landmarks in its century-long tradition include the tenures of the legendary Fritz Reiner and that of Georg Solti, who put the orchestra on the international map. Since he became music director in 1991 Daniel Barenboim has arguably raised the orchestra to even greater heights.

All praise to orchestra and conductor for offering a substantial, half-hour score by Harrison Birtwistle in the first of its pair of Proms, alongside Mahler's Fifth Symphony. This is an orchestra that likes to showcase its talents, revealing individual sonorities as though under a spotlight. The performances of both scores were brilliant in every sense, almost disconcertingly so.

The subtitle of Birtwistle's *Exody*, commissioned by the orchestra and given its European premiere, is *23:59:59*, a reference to the split second before the new millennium. Notions of time and continuity are central to the conception, as is that of a journey, expressed in the title *Exody*. The journey traced in the work is analogous to a labyrinth, in which there is no single, obvious direction, but a multiplicity of routes. Birtwistle calls the process "fractured continuity".

In the early stages, a long string line unfolds, like the unwinding of Theseus's thread, but it is disrupted by brass outbursts and other distractions from generously endowed departments (triple wind, four trumpets, five percussionists). A pair of tubas and three rasping trombones continually stole the limelight in this performance — surely a miscalculation — but the sense of inexorability was impressively maintained. This is a rich score that will reveal more secrets after further hearings.

"Fractured continuity" might also describe the Mahlerian process, whereby fleeting impressions are moulded into a coherent structure. Contrary to expectations, Barenboim, whose handling of long-term, organic processes in Wagner and Strauss is second to none, failed to convince in his reading of the Fifth.

The opening funeral march was so glutinous, so lethargic that the cortège appeared to be stuck in the mud. The related music of the second movement sounded similarly leaden. The orchestral playing overall was vibrant, adroitly executed and brightly coloured — indeed, too harshly lit for the waltzes in the third movement.

The concentrated string sound of the Adagietto was perfectly realised, the rise and fall of emotion well gauged. More brilliance in the finale, but not even the stirring tuttis could convince me that this was an organically conceived reading.

BARRY MILLINGTON

MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY: PAINTING OF THE DAY

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



Each day this week ***Richard Cork*** *selects outstanding paintings from the forthcoming Royal Academy exhibition*

TODAY: The Bridge over the Water-Lily Pond, 1900

A DELECTABLE canvas painted ten years after Monet bought his house at Giverny celebrates the water garden he had constructed there. Inspired by his love of Japanese prints, the curving bridge and lily-strewn pond gave him a ready-made subject. Everything seems to be burgeoning with summer's richness: the petal-heavy leaves suspended on the water, the fronds erupting frothily on the bank, and the dense, cascading branches of the weeping willow. Monet's brushmarks are not yet as headlong as they would become in the 1920s. But they are already free enough to catch the overwhelming sensuousness of his private paradise.

● Times readers have exclusive priority booking access to 50,000 tickets for the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition (Jan 23 to April 19, 1999), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall (0870 842 2200, booking fee £1.80 per ticket on first five tickets, £1.40 per ticket thereafter) by September 30



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One revival too many

POP

The Dandy Warhols

Empire, W12

A STYLISHLY dishevelled quartet of self-styled bohemians from Portland, Oregon, the Dandy Warhols sound like a walking compendium of Sixties rock influences. Fronted by their louche guitarist and chief songwriter Courtney Taylor, their largest London show to date on Friday night was warmly received but not exactly awash with originality.

Taylor's voice is lusty but lacking in character, just as his songs are energetic but rarely inspired. Punctuating the set with cryptic hippyish proclamations, the willowy singer proved avuncular and droll, but his music exuded considerably less charm. It became clear very quickly that the Dandy Warhols have a severely limited stylistic repertoire, alternating between pseudo-mystical drones and bubblegum pop ditties.

Much of the set consisted of interchangeably generic numbers which clothed rudimentary Sixties-tinged melodies in lightly psychedelic trimmings, complemented by a filmed backdrop of throbbingly abstract visuals. But the mood was less like 1967 San Francisco than an early Eighties show by such "Paisley Underground" luminaries as Green On Red or Dream Syndicate, middling American bands who combined classic West Coast harmonies with post-punk attitude. The effect was rather like witnessing a revival of a revival.

Inevitably, the set's few peaks arrived with such Top 40 singles as *Not If You Were The Last Junkie On Earth*, an infectious satire on the hollow posturing of heroin chic, and *Every Day Should Be A Holiday*, a rare moment of bouncy dynamism whose melody cheekily echoes Duran Duran's 1982 hit *Rio*. Keyboard player Zia McCabe also gave a sweetly unpolished a cappella reading of the vintage Velvet Underground ballad *After Hours*, before being rejoined by the rest of the band for a raucous encore of the Rolling Stones hit *The Last Time*.

Tellingly, this is probably where the band's true calling lies — as a competent Sixties cover band. And as long as they remain so uncritically in thrall to pop's lost golden age, the Dandy Warhols will never offer more than marginal curiosity value.

STEPHEN DALTON

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Festival salutes a father-figure

EDINBURGH 98

OPERA

Dalibor/Libuse
Festival Theatre

There were enough themes at this year's Edinburgh Festival to give even the most avid culture vulture indigestion, but that is what festivals are for. The final days saw a celebration of Smetana's music — two concerts by the Czech Philharmonic, a study day, chamber music, plus Scottish Opera's fine new production of *Dalibor* and an outstanding concert performance of *Libuse*.

Smetana is seen as the father-figure of Czech music, though he had predecessors and successors in plenty. But he was central to the nationalist movement of his time, and to the building of the National Theatre in Prague, that great symbol of independence. *Dalibor* is still regarded as the Great Czech Opera, and *Libuse* opened the National Theatre not once, but twice.

We keep quiet about the fact that Smetana's command of the Czech language was incomplete, and that the librettos of both operas were originally written in German. And they are not awfully good. We are never quite told why the knight Dalibor is in a state of revolt, and in 19th-century terms he is the unlikeliest hero imaginable, motivated by love for his murdered boyfriend, the violinist Zdenek: the heroine Milada gets to know him better by dressing up as a boy, *Fidelio*-style, to gain access to his prison cell, and while this adds a patina of respectability, it is Zdenek's music that continues to dominate. The ending is a complete mess: David Pountney more or less devised his own for Scottish Opera, ending with a celestial ménage à trois blessed by solo violin carolling away. Rum stuff.

Libuse is almost as rum. She was a sort of female Moses figure for the Czech nation, and bossy with it. Having failed to adjudicate between two warring brothers — inheritance and a soprano are the bones of contention — she decides to take a husband, the farmer Premsyl, to bolster her authority. And that's it, for three hours, save for her final, rather selective vision of future glories of the Czech nation, tactfully omitting any mention of the Battle of the White Mountain (1620), which tied up so neatly with the festival exhibition devoted to Elizabeth, temporary Queen of Bohemia and sister of Charles I. Themes, themes.

Both these operas break every known rule of composition for the stage, and both are quite wonderful, inspiring, refreshing, deeply stirring. Some contemporaries thought *Dalibor* Wagnerian, which it isn't, though *Libuse* does sound as though Smetana had conducted *Lohengrin* rather too often for his own good. Haydn is a likelier role model: like him, Smetana can make a single musical idea go an awfully long way. More or less everything in *Dalibor* stems from the great rolling tune that heralds the hero's entrance, and there are two basic themes in the *Libuse* overture that, symphonically transformed, permeate most of what follows. From them flows a wealth of unconstrained melody, adventurously orchestrated, with hit numbers like Dalibor's love song and Premsyl's aria in praise of lime trees as lovely as anything in 19th-century opera.

The performances were outstanding. Richard Armstrong and the Scottish Opera Orchestra and Chorus showed complete command of Smetana's rogue idiom, and Pountney's fluid staging minimised the works's clumsinesses in Ralph Koltai's spectacular designs. Leo Marian Vodicka sang the title role as only a Czech can, and Kathleen Broderick's Milada-Fidelio was spirited and secure. Vivian Tierney was tested by the Marzelline-figure, Jitka, a Helden-soubrette role if ever there was one.

The all-Czech cast for *Libuse* was led by Eva Urbanova, a thrilling heroic soprano making her operatic debut here. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra sounded as though they had been playing this music all their lives, and Oliver von Dohnanyi led a most cogently paced, appropriately epic performance. The final visions, with the famous Hussite hymn hammering away, roused the Edinburgh audience to a frenzy of huzzah-ing.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



Kathleen Broderick (Milada) with Leo Marian Vodicka (Dalibor) in David Pountney's staging of Smetana's opera

Watching big brother

THEATRE

One thing missing from this year's Edinburgh International Festival has been maverick spirits. Only Ivo van Hove's two productions have come close. Anyone expecting *Caligula* to repeat the stylistic stamp he put on O'Neill's *More Stately Mansions*, though, is in for a shock. For not only has van Hove opted for an earlier, more timeless, and far superior draft of Camus' tragedy, but he has managed to make it totally relevant to the loveless end-of-the-century ennui we're locked in without changing a word.

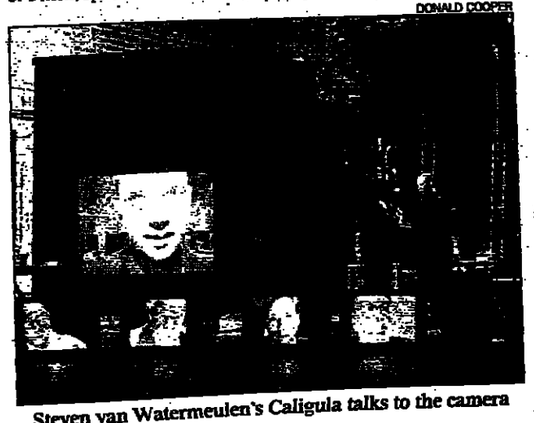
Here we find all the emperor's men, spin-doctors and senators, listlessly pacing the floor of some vast bunker, while Caligula is absent without leave, mourning the death of the sister he loved in a very unbrotherly way. On returning he retreats into depravity and brings death and pestilence to his kingdom while he himself lives in and for the moment. It is almost as if he is willing the conspiracy that festers to overthrow him and put him out of his misery. Yet, while he sullies what was once the purest of loves, every desperate act is a yearning for that purity to return.

Camus' text is both a thrilling tragedy and a near-perfect primer in existential philosophy. But, by having a live camera follow Steven van Watermeulen's brilliantly sustained Caligula, relaying close-ups on video monitors, you never once lose sight of the emperor's public apparel. There are times when you just wish van Hove would go off and make the movie and have done with it. But when van Watermeulen turns to the camera and raises his hand in a gesture we see every day in the tabloids, it's as if a million paparazzi were plaguing him.

If the production had played in a more intimate space than the Playhouse's cavernous expanse, the high-tech jiggery-pokery wouldn't have been necessary. Nor, perhaps, would the inexplicable series of audience walkouts. Are we really unable to embrace something so daring and so profound because its approach is unfamiliar? Or is it because we're too afraid to think? Most British theatre lacks daring, adventure and style. If van Hove cannot be bothered to return, that would be a crime.

NEIL COOPER

DONALD COOPER



Steven van Watermeulen's Caligula talks to the camera

Cut the chatter

CONCERT

What Peter Stein needed was a good director. He had been engaged to provide a narration to link the *Egmont Overture* with the nine variably inspired items of incidental music Beethoven wrote to go with it in 1810 — an easy enough task, surely, for as experienced and as penetratingly intelligent a man of the theatre as Peter Stein.

But, before he came to sit at his desk in front of the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** on the platform of the **Usher Hall**, he might usefully have applied some of those directorial resources to his own performance. Starting with the disadvantage of a not very clear English accent, he would have been well advised not to race through chunks of Goethe's dialogue but simply to describe the situation in which each piece of music occurs. It might also have occurred to him — if his conductor partner in the enterprise, Joseph Swensen, was not inclined to tell him — that, with an audience assembled to hear Beethoven's music and an orchestra there to play it, there was no point in talking over it or otherwise interrupting it.

The one short of item of melodrama, designed specifically to accompany a few words from Egmont as he falls asleep in his cell in the last act, was effectively done. So were the two delightful little songs written for Egmont's beloved Clärchen and touchingly sung on this occasion by Sophie Daneman. Best of all was Swensen's dramatically charged and tightly articulated interpretation of the Overture.

One of the problems with the rest of the SCO's ill-conceived Beethoven concert was that there was nothing else for the conductor to project himself into with the same recklessly wholehearted commitment as he brought to the Overture. The Choral Fantasia, Op 80 — thoughtfully introduced by Steven Osborne at the piano and attractively sung by the Edinburgh Festival Chorus — is not that kind of work. The Triple Concerto, Op 56, might have been that kind of work if the orchestra had been partnered by soloists of a stature appropriate to a space like the Usher Hall. The Florestan Trio is a promising young ensemble but it was seriously out of place here.

GERALD LARNER

This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

Diana Rigg takes on Racine's tempestuous *Phèdre* at the Albery
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Saving Private Ryan: Spielberg's graphic depiction of D-Day
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

David Rendall sings the doomed *Otello* in the ENO's new production
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Next week



■ MUSIC

Midori makes a fresh date with her fans at the Wigmore Hall
CONCERT: Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

PLUS: Claude Deppa blows his trumpet at the South Bank, Thursday

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How to save the monarchy

The public must vote on the head of state, says **Tim Hames**

The debate over the future of the Crown has hardly even started. This may come as a surprise, even an unpleasant shock, to those who thought that Buckingham Palace had succeeded in pacifying popular calls for change with its new, slick, emphasis on presentation.

In a report *Modernising the Monarchy*, written by Mark Leonard and myself and published by Demos, we outline a blueprint for a new, more relevant, monarchy that can not only stagger into the next century but will become stronger. Ours are only suggestions and we hope many others will make contributions.

There is no single right route to reform, but we believe there are certain basic principles essential for the new monarchy. These are that the current, outdated and cumbersome political functions of the Crown need to be abandoned; that the Royal Household needs to be abolished and replaced with a meritocratic, open and professional alternative; that the obscure financial arrangements surrounding the monarchy should be more accountable; that the archaic link between Crown and Church of England does not suit contemporary Britain; and that the monarchy should embrace a more diverse and dynamic symbolic role.

> The age of automatic deference has long been destroyed

The seeds of change were sown some time ago. The age of automatic deference was, rightly, destroyed by the social measures pursued by the Left in the 1960s and then the economic agenda pioneered by the Right in the 1980s.

In our time, the idea that the monarchy has a right to exist simply because it always has, or because Parliament deems it convenient, is little short of farcical. The court that matters today is that of public opinion. The British people want neither an unreconstructed monarchy nor an outright republic. For too long ultra-traditionalists and ultra-radicals have conspired to make these the only options. We hope our document will show that there is a middle course.

The new monarchy would recognise the supremacy of public opinion. The vehicle for that would be an affirmative referendum held shortly after, and to confirm or not, a succession. The monarchy would withdraw from its current complicated political role that, as Peter Riddell noted on these pages last week, may become ever more controversial because of other constitutional changes that the Blair Government has introduced.

Only the political role of the monarchy justifies the existence of the Royal Household, staffed on a narrow basis that would never be tolerated in the Civil Service or a successful business, and permits the continuing secrecy that surrounds Royal finances. The Royal Household, as constructed, is the single largest threat to the monarchy's future. It is seen by most people as a sort of welfare state for the minor aristocracy.

In its place would come an Office of the Monarchy, staffed by high-flying civil servants and some specialist personal appointments. It would receive additional ideas from an advisory council drawn from all walks of life. Financial and other administrative matters would fall under the scrutiny of a House of Commons select committee. The deliberately remote Crown of the past would be no more.

The other formal area that cannot be avoided is the connection between the Crown and the Church of England. We believe that the monarchy cannot fully represent the whole population while it retains this exclusive relationship with a state church. It does not suit a largely secular society in which those who do practise religion are as likely to be Roman Catholic, Methodist or Muslim as Anglican. The Prince of Wales recognised this in his "defender of faiths" remarks.

It also cannot make for coherent theology for the Church of England, which would probably benefit from full independence. The Lord may move in mysterious ways but the present settlement is incomprehensible.

The monarchy would then be free to expand upon what, at its best, it does best — symbolic, predominantly philanthropic, activity at home and the promotion of Britain abroad. We believe that a special emphasis could now be placed on education. There could be Queen's Awards for both the most successful and the most improving students, teachers, headmasters and schools. There could be an attempt at the proactive — adopting previously troubled schools at an early stage of their transformation and directing energy, time and resources towards supporting their efforts to improve. In our pamphlet we offer other examples of "active symbolism".

It will be said, correctly, that some of this is being done already. The Prince of Wales has made an admirable difference through his Prince's Trust. On the old rules, unfortunately, these innovations will be squeezed out, not deepened, when he becomes King, to make room for the formal, political, functions. We believe this is precisely the wrong sense of priorities. The antique formal functions should be squeezed out in favour of an ever more ambitious and imaginative symbolic role.

A modernised monarchy has a bountiful part to play in modern Britain and can reinvent itself in so doing. It remains to be seen whether the so-called monarchists will let it happen.

Modernising the Monarchy, by Tim Hames and Mark Leonard, is available from Demos from today, price £4.95.

From Little Rock to the Oval Office, Clinton trails a stench of depravity and corruption

On every count, a moral bankrupt

William Rees-Mogg

It is not a good idea to make a charismatic sociopath the leader of one's party, or the President of one's country.

When the Democratic Senator Bob Kerrey says that President Clinton's conduct is "immoral", he is entitled to say that. He lost a leg in Vietnam when Bill Clinton was dodging the draft in Oxford; he ran against Clinton for the nomination in 1992 and in 1996 observed that Clinton was "an unusually good liar".

When Senator Joseph Lieberman says that the President has "compromised his moral authority", he should add an apology of his own. Senator Lieberman should say "sorry" to the American people for helping to persuade them to elect and re-elect a morally defective President.

The psychological truth about Bill Clinton is relatively simple. He is not wholly a madman; he does not hate his fellow human beings, as Hitler did, nor does he wish them ill; he is obsessed with power and with women; he is a brilliant emotional campaigner, but there is a piece missing. He has no moral compass; he does not know right from wrong. This was always apparent in the way he acted as Governor of Arkansas, but the Democrats, the American press and, worst of all, the American public, chose to overlook that. It was equally apparent in his behaviour to hundreds of women. He had a standard operating technique, and had a staff to handle it. The women were called "bimbo eruptions"; the technique was called "rub-a-dub".

The "rub-a-dub" involved telling the women to lie about the affair; if there was still a risk that she would talk, she was offered the choice between a good job, if necessary on the federal payroll, or having her character blackened. Sometimes this was accompanied by physical threats, given at second-hand; one woman has testified that an emissary of the Democrats threatened to "break her pretty legs". The Arkansas police say that they had to cover assignations with more than 100 women. Apparently President Clinton told Monica Lewinsky that he had connected with "some hundreds" of other women since he was first married. It is addictive conduct: it is also a destructive abuse of women.

Yet this is the less important part of the President's moral blindness. In the Arkansas years, he helped in the cover-up of the mass importation of cocaine into Mena airport, of which there is evidence that he had knowledge. He set up the $700 million Arkansas Development Finance Agency (ADFA), which made crony loans in return for kickbacks to the Governor's political funds. The ADFA records have disappeared. His wife had corrupt partners in the Rose Law Firm whose records were shredded shortly after the death of Vince Foster, the former White House counsel.

Clinton was the associate of Arkansas criminals, including his bond-dealing friend Dan Lasater, convicted for a cocaine felony and pardoned by Clinton. Lasater's executive partner, Patsy Thomasson, is still in the White House, and was one of those who went into Foster's office to clear up after his death.

Clinton failed to seek proper investigation of the suspicious deaths connected to these scandals. The numbers are high: four Clinton associates died in doubtful circumstances: eight people investigating allegations also died; nine witnesses died. Of these 21 deaths eight were found to be suicides, including those of Vince Foster himself, of Kathy Ferguson, the former wife of the trooper who allegedly solicited Paula Jones, and of Ed Willey, the former manager of Clinton's campaign finance committee. Five of the suspicious deaths occurred in plane crashes.

The pattern of abuse of public office continued in the White House, in raising funds for campaign finance, in the transfer of FBI files on political opponents, in the false prosecution of the White House travel staff. Some of the deaths occurred after Clinton became President. Jerry Parks, a private detective in Little Rock, was shot two months after Vince Foster's death. He had compiled a dossier on Clinton's sexual conduct, apparently at Foster's request. When Foster's death was announced on television, Parks turned to his wife and said: "I'm a dead man."

Mrs Parks alleges that the Clinton dossier was stolen shortly before her husband's murder and that she had been unable to secure a satisfactory Arkansas police investigation. Arkansas politics have long been a violent and corrupt affair, and neither as Governor nor as President did Bill Clinton help to reform it.

The Republicans, Kenneth Starr and now the Democrats have concentrated on the sexual scandals. There are a number of reasons for this. The corrupt maladministration and fundraising are very difficult to prove. Heaven knows who did the Arkansas murders, or how many of the suspicious deaths were murders. They belong to the hinterland of corrupt Arkansas politics in which Bill Clinton operated. The American people do not want to recognise that their President is not only a sex addict but a deeply corrupt politician.

Yet this is far more than a sex scandal. Democratic congressmen running in the mid-term elections are distancing themselves from him and after the elections he will no longer have much power to reward or punish. The loaves and fishes will be provided, if at all, by the publishers. Monica Lewinsky's book is being offered for $10 million.

After Watergate many of the participants, some of whom had gone to prison, wrote their accounts of the Nixon White House. What will Patsy Thomasson's memoirs be worth? She knows what went on between Dan Lasater and Clinton in the old days; she knows what she found in Vince Foster's office; she knows the reality of Bill and Hillary's relationship.

The next two years will see more and more of the truth coming out. Some of it may even exonerate Clinton from particular allegations. Unfortunately, much of it will be like the evidence of Monica Lewinsky or Gennifer Flowers, at first denied and then proved to be true. Once Clinton admitted that he had lied about Lewinsky, all the other lies he has told have ceased to work.

Clinton's position is therefore likely to get worse and worse, as the Starr report is published, as the evidence continues to flood out, and his party rejects him. The American people will begin to understand how defective he always was, how willing to abuse his power.

On *The Frost Programme* yesterday Chris Patten said he thought the best thing to happen would be for the American people to turn over the Clinton leaf and let him finish his term of office. If it were all only about Monica Lewinsky that might be possible, but there are too many other scandals. Miss Lewinsky was the norm, not the exception. There cannot be a clear-cut resolution of the Clinton scandals so long as he remains in the White House.

The authority of the President of the United States depends on public confidence in his moral character. Clinton now has no more moral authority in politics than Robert Maxwell, another charismatic sociopath, had in business.

Is our end really nigh?

Labour's economic strategy faces its toughest test, says **Peter Riddell**



The hardest test for any government is to do nothing when the news is bad. A media and presentation-obsessed administration such as the present one is particularly vulnerable to siren voices urging that "something must be done". Often, a hurriedly cobbled together something is worse than doing nothing. The Blair Government faces this predicament now over the Russian crisis, upheavals in global markets and a series of big redundancies at home.

Gordon Brown has said very little in public since returning from holiday in late August — a silence that is as significant as his usual loquaciousness. The Treasury view is that saying too much can damage rather than assist confidence. But a lot is going on in private, both internally and in consultations among Group of Seven governments. New assessments are being prepared, but there are no firm conclusions, since no one knows how bad things could get. However, as one senior official put it, Whitehall as a whole has not really woken up to how far the world has changed.

Tony Blair and President Clinton have repeated familiar phrases about continuing with necessary reforms in Russia, but this is to bridge the gap until it is clearer what form of government emerges and what political support it has. There will have to be some idea of what minimum conditions are feasible before Western governments even consider support for stabilisation programmes and longer-term structural reforms.

The main importance of Russia is political, given its still vast nuclear arsenal, rather than economic, since it remains a minor player in the global economy. More worrying in the eyes of the Treasury are the Far East (the policy paralysis in Japan and fears over Hong Kong and China) and last week's shockwaves through Latin American markets. Troubles in the latter could hit American exports and banks badly, directly affecting the United States's economy, and hence the rest of us.

The Chancellor's advisers accept that the risks for the British economy have increased and that conditions could get much worse in the next few weeks. But they still believe that a UK recession is not inevitable. They argue that our economy is in a healthy condition to withstand such external shocks. Moreover, slowdowns have usually turned into lengthy recessions only because of policy errors — most spectacularly in the 1930s, but also in October 1987. Central banks

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

then responded to a temporary tumble in share prices by cutting interest rates, which aggravated existing inflationary pressures.

The Brown camp argues that the right policy decisions have already been taken. Unlike the late 1980s, the economy is starting to slow after the monetary squeeze applied by the Bank of England, while the public finances are in good shape. So even if the economy slows more sharply than expected, there is no need to do anything dramatic now. That is still the consensus view, but there are now more risks on the downside.

The Chancellor is already facing calls to relax policy. TUC leaders will meet the Prime Minister later today to urge a broadening in the terms of reference of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee from focusing just on inflation to consider also growth and unemployment. Such calls will be rejected, since they would undermine the Bank's anti-inflation credentials and guarantee muddle in policymaking.

Many in industry and the unions want an immediate cut in interest rates to relieve pressure on the pound and on exporters. However, the latest closures of the Pujitsu plant in Mr Blair's constituency in the North East, and the Siemens one in the nearby constituency of Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary, are little to do with the strong pound but are directly the result of the collapse in the world semiconductor market caused by the Asian recession.

Nor does it make sense to cut taxes, or increase public spending. A sizeable relaxation is already planned over the next three years, particularly in public investment, which will start to work through from next spring. Even though Mr Brown always talks about the importance of the long-term and avoiding short-term fine-tuning, such an increase will operate in a classically Keynesian counter-cyclical way to offset the slowdown elsewhere in the economy. Indeed, there are worries that Mr Brown has taken too many risks with spending, and borrowing: Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, argued last week that the Government's spending plans were always based on "hopelessly over-optimistic" economic assumptions but "have now been blown out of the water". The Brown camp claims that a safety-margin has been built in, but that could quickly disappear in a recession.

The Government hopes that the impact of redundancies can be softened by various micro measures to encourage further investment (such as those announced for the North East by Peter Mandelson on Friday) and by the already-funded New Deal programme to assist the unemployed back into work.

The most serious challenge for the Blair-Brown strategy may be ideological. A central plank of new Labour is support for globalisation: free trade and investment flows and a limited role for government in providing stable fiscal and monetary conditions. That is under challenge from mavericks such as Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, with his attacks on the free-market system, while the likely jump in cheap Asian exports into the United States may strengthen demands for protectionist measures. Moreover, implicit in the latest protests by union leaders and Labour MPs is that free markets have failed and that the Government should intervene to safeguard the British economy from these global storms. Such calls are likely to grow and resisting them will test the political will of the Prime Minister and Chancellor, and the more fair-weather of new Blairite MPs. This may become the old/new Labour faultline of the next two years.

Claws are out

THE TIMES DIARY

WAYNE SLEEP has failed to display the dexterity of Mr Mistoffelees. The dancer (pictured left) had hoped to wangle a part in Trevor Nunn's home entertainment video of *Cats* after his success in the original stage production in which he played T.S. Eliot's magical moggy. But when he was informed by the artistic director of the Royal National Theatre (right) that he would have to audition like everyone else, Sleep refused: "They wanted to see if I could still dance. It was an outrage." The 1981 West End production of *Cats*, directed by Nunn, launched Sleep's career. *The Times* review wrote of "isolated moments of bravura direction, such as Wayne Sleep's balletic irruption as Mr Mistoffelees".





Four years later, he was dancing with Diana, Princess of Wales, at the Royal Opera House. Sleep celebrated his 50th birthday earlier this year with a show in London to raise money for his Sleep Dance Scholarship, where he performed a sprightly tribute to the late Princess. Either Nunn and his colleagues remained unimpressed with the dancer's display of agility, or they remembered his performances behind the scenes first time round.

During the show's first long run, wardrobe managers would complain to Nunn of Sleep's backstage tantrums. Whatever the reason for the dancer being passed over, he has not taken the snub well. When they knocked into each other not so long ago, Nunn purred: "I simply must tell you the saga of my new *Cats* video." Sleep snapped back: "I just don't care about the saga of your new video." Perhaps the dancer should have offered to play Old Deuteronomy, the cat who is getting somewhat whiskery.

● *NOEL GALLAGHER has bought the ultimate in council estate chic. He is now the proud owner of an Anatolian karabash, a ten-stone mastiff from Turkey, which, I am assured, is far classier than a common rottweiller.*

Last laugh

MARK THOMAS, who has done awfully well in the past year out of disparaging Tony Blair and his friends, has accepted a position with the Government. The alternative comedian is advising Gordon Brown about reforming tax to ensure that wealthy types cannot wriggle out of paying their dues.

Thomas was invited after his televisual exposés of the likes of Nicholas Soames, whom he showed avoided paying inheritance tax on family heirlooms by listing them as available to public inspection when they were not. The programme was quoted approvingly in Parliament. "I have been asked to draw up draft guidelines and I am currently talking to the Inland Revenue," he says. But will Thomas be so keen on defeating tax avoidance when he himself joins the ranks of millionaire comedians such as Ben Elton?

● *THE cost of indulging a basic instinct. A journalist at the Venice Film Festival asked Michael Douglas: "How do you invest your mountain of money?" The actor, who once admitted he was addicted to sex, responded: "It's become very small since I divorced."*

Remaindered

IRVINE WELSH is among those believed to have failed to make the long list of 20 titles for this year's Booker Prize for Fiction. Joining the author of *Trainspotting* on the reject pile are David Caute, Les Murray and Alan Warner.

Newer names who are thought still to have a chance of making the shortlist include Sebastian Barry, Derek Beavan and Shani Mootoo. Beryl Bainbridge, for *Master Georgie* is, as ever, a strong contender and tipped for great things. Literary types will have to wait for just over a fortnight to find out who has made the grade.

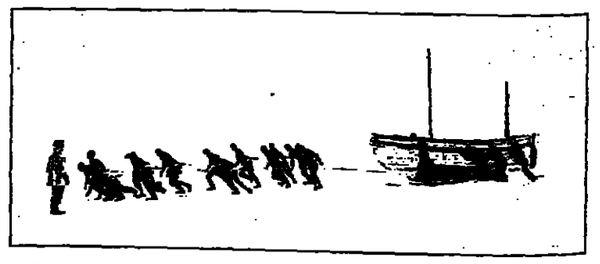
● *My congratulations to Sophie Rhys-Jones (pictured left). Prince Edward's armrest has passed her motorcycle driving test. Whether he will ride pillion has yet to be seen.*



Lèse-majesté

GLENDA JACKSON is a fan of Dick Francis. Although they have yet to meet, the Transport Minister employed an emissary to obtain a signed copy of the writer's latest tales from the racetrack when he was holding court at the Ritz the other day. "She has got all his books," her sidekick tells me. Francis, who counts John Major and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother among his most loyal readers, appeared at first to be equally gushing, praising Jackson's performance as Elizabeth I. Until, that is, I glimpsed his flourish in the book for the woman who has given up the stage for Parliament: "Hope to see you on the screen again soon."

● *IN THE run-up to the launch of Sir Edward Heath's memoirs, the publishers have already upset the former Prime Minister. Behind his back, Hodder & Stoughton brought forward the book's launch by a week so that it landed in the middle of the Tory party conference in Bournemouth next month. Once Sir Edward found out, he insisted on the original date. I always knew he was a good sort.*



EVEN as he struggled to survive, money remained important to the photographer accompanying Sir Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica in 1914-16. Frank Hurley was among 27 adventurers who were trapped in ice on the *Endurance* before their long trek to safety. Unable to carry heavy metal plates, he smashed 400 of them to ensure that the surviving 150 photographs, to be published by Bloomsbury in November, were more valuable.

Bristol fashion

THE good burghers of Bristol are a rum lot. Later this week, *The Matthew*, a replica of John Cabot's 15th-century vessel, is due in the city after seafaring adventures. But an official has threatened to arrest the crew on their triumphal arrival for non-payment of council tax.

EDWARD WELSH

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES — FUTURE TIMES

THE WAR OF JENKINS' EAR

A guide through the minefield of electoral reform

More than 20 years after leaving his last Cabinet, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead will be at the centre of British politics in the next few months. He may find this prospect agreeable, but others await the outcome of his commission on electoral reform with foreboding. It will haunt the party conference season and the next session of Parliament. William Hague launches the Conservative campaign against change this week. The Labour Party is badly divided. Robin Cook supports PR. John Prescott and Jack Straw are trenchant opponents. Gordon Brown is thought to lean against. Tony Blair has said that he is "not persuaded" (yet) but is committed to a referendum on the issue in this Parliament. Even Paddy Ashdown is nervous, for fear that the Jenkins proposals will stop short of a fully proportional system.

Irrespective of the final recommendation — which is expected in October — Britain is in for an orgy of electoral experiment. Elections to the Scottish parliament in May will be held under a German-style Alternative Member System (AMS). This means that some members will be elected by constituencies and the rest from party lists. The effect will be to produce a parliament that broadly matches the percentages of the vote achieved by each party. That will make coalitions rather than one-party government the norm.

The Welsh assembly, on the other hand, will be elected using a slightly different version of AMS that makes it more probable that one party can command a majority. In Northern Ireland, however, the new Assembly has already been chosen under the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method. This involves very large constituencies that select several members each. The result has been a deliberate (broadly proportional) balance between Unionists and nationalists.

These arrangements are straightforward compared with those destined for the capital. Londoners will pick their new mayor via the Supplementary Vote (SV). In this system, voters indicate a first and second preference among candidates. If none wins an overall majority, the top two contenders stay in the contest. All other candidates are eliminated, with the second preferences of their voters redistributed to one of the remaining two favourites. SV is a variant of the Alternative Vote (AV) technique — used only in Australia and Malta — which allows for several preferences to be expressed and disposes of candidates one by one until somebody achieves a majority. The new London assembly will emerge from yet another version of the Alternative Member System.

The rest of England should not feel left out. The European elections next summer will involve vast regions with numerous MEPs. In every region the ballot papers will baldly list political parties: it will be impossible to vote for individual candidates or opt for a mixture of parties. The net effect of all this innovation is that residents of, for example, Islington will, in the course of at most three years, vote in four different elections — the European Parliament, a London mayor, the London assembly, the House of Commons — by four different methods. This will be confusing. There is a risk that turnout — which in 1997 under a familiar system was the lowest since 1945 — will fall even further. The old protest slogan "Don't vote, it only encourages them" could be displaced by "Don't vote, you may need a doctorate".

Although the Government has been excessively radical, appropriate electoral systems may vary depending on the institution. But some guiding principles are needed in this maze. The House of Commons clearly needs to retain small single-member constituencies that allow for close personal representation by MPs. Any method that included party lists — hand-picked hacks from the various central offices — would be alien and undemocratic. No electoral method should be selected that is knowingly biased against one of the major parties. Furthermore, it should not be possible for small parties to hold the political process to ransom.

On the basis of these criteria the Jenkins Commission should be considering the current system, the Alternative or Supplementary Vote, or the two-ballot method pioneered in France and now widely used elsewhere. This last option means that, unless one candidate secures an outright majority, a second round is held in all constituencies with only the most popular two contenders from the first ballot left standing. For some inexplicable reason this formula seems to have been totally ignored during the debate so far.

That leaves a choice between the *status quo* and the Alternative/Supplementary Vote. The AV/SV idea is superficially attractive but comes with serious disadvantages. In order to win, candidates would need to court the support of voters whose first choice was for small parties — including those of an extremist nature. The coming Australian election may hinge on the second preferences of those who first back the racist One Nation party. This would better be described as disproportionate representation.

In this country, AV/SV would be, to put it bluntly, biased against the Conservative Party. There are, and have been for years, many more Conservative-Lib Dem marginal seats, where Labour voters could exercise a decisive say, than Labour-Lib Dem marginal seats where Tories would be in the same position. The impact of AV/SV in the average election would be to reduce Tory representation, increase Lib Dem numbers and leave Labour largely unaffected. This is why, unsurprisingly, many in the Labour Party find AV/SV extremely attractive. It would be a shocking abuse of power — without precedent in British history — for the Government to introduce an electoral system for its own partisan advantage. It would be the moral equivalent of ballot-rigging.

The closer the scrutiny given to the alternatives, the stronger becomes the common-sense case for keeping the present system for electing the House of Commons. Any AV/SV method, above all one with some party-list "top-up", would simply substitute a known set of imperfections with even worse faults. Lord Jenkins will want change. The Prime Minister should be more wary.

LOOK AT THE GIRLS

Time to investigate the secrets of examination success

If there are still glass ceilings in some offices, they are likely to shatter at the collective impact of the confident, well-qualified generation of girls now emerging from the nation's schools. This year's GCSE results, even more compellingly than the A-level league tables, confirm a seemingly unstoppable trend: over the past decade, the numbers of girls who, from the age of seven, are outclassing boys in tests and examinations have been steadily growing. This development appears to be peculiarly British, rather than common to all broadly equivalent countries. Educationists claim to be baffled; but a Government out to raise overall educational standards should not rest until it has identified the reasons.

Some may be sociological, some educational. There are signs that because girls see the jobs market to be as open to them as to boys, they are working harder and tackling subjects, such as sciences, that they used to be less confident about. Teachers find that girls have taken particularly well to the inclusion of assessed work. And "best practice" plays a part; schools that do well place great onus on teachers to detect dips in pupils' performance and take action, often in liaison with parents, instead of blankly blaming academic failure on the child.

But most striking is the performance of single-sex schools. These are commoner here than in continental Europe, which may help to explain why the trend is less marked there. Boys as well as girls appear to profit, although the disruptions of mixed classes tell harder on girls. Not only has St Paul's Girls School topped the GCSE league for the third year in a row, a remarkable tribute to its just retired High Mistress, Janet Gough; nine of the top ten are girls' schools, a pattern of our GCSE tables since 1994; no mixed-school is in the top 20.

In both independent and public schools, success breeds success: exam results in all top schools tend to improve much faster than the average. This is most marked in selective schools; but selection cannot be the only reason why certain schools do so well year after year. As well as sending "hit squads" to failing schools, the Government could usefully dispatch special teams to the star performers. There must be lessons there that could sensibly be adopted countrywide.

WISDOM IN TREES

China sets a good environmental precedent for Asia

Taoist philosophy required that man should live in harmony with his world. Yet China has often subscribed to less benevolent values. Of late the Communist slogan "Conquer Nature" has held sway. Deforestation, wetland drainage and pell-mell urban development have slashed a pathway for a peasant economy towards high productivity. But this has also contributed to environmental catastrophe. The floods that swept death, disease and disruption across China this summer were made worse by the logging which has denuded the upper reaches of the Yangtze River of the tree roots which would once have retained the monsoons. Water runs off, eroding earth, swelling silted rivers. The thousand lakes of Hubei province, which would have absorbed the swells, have been drained for farmland.

The Chinese Government should be congratulated for its decision to redress the disaster it formerly induced. Calling an abrupt halt to the logging industry, it has ordered more than a million lumberjacks to lay down their axes and turn tree-planters instead; 4.6 million hectares of forest are to be protected from the chainsaw. At least 65 timber mills will be closed and $73 million has been pledged for reforestation. This sets an admirable Asian precedent.

It would be heartening if President Jiang Zemin would also reconsider the Three Gorges Dam being built in Hubei province. The adverse environmental impact of this vast hydroelectric project looks set to outweigh the economic gains. By tradition the Chinese believe that a flood heralds the end of a dynasty. Still today, floods are an awkward test for a leader. A President whose name can be taken to mean "the river soaks people" would be wise to consider every possible method of turning the tide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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'Death knell' for life on ocean wave

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers

Sir, Your article about the imminent demise of British Merchant Navy ratings ("The death knell sounds for a life on the ocean wave", Business, August 31) gave some much-needed exposure to the appalling state of our shipping industry.

Two decades of decline has meant that an island nation will be almost wholly dependent upon other countries for the provision of its shipping services.

At a time when world seaborne trade is rising year on year to record levels and when international orders for new ships are at their highest in almost 25 years, it should be of the most profound concern that the British merchant fleet has continued to decline and now stands at its lowest level this century. The lessons of history show that shipping is essential to our nation's wellbeing, both in strategic and commercial terms. We ignore those lessons at our peril.

The industry eagerly awaits the outcome of the joint industry-government working party on maritime policy. The next few months will be crucial to the very survival of the British Merchant Navy and our maritime skills base.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ORRELL,
General Secretary, Numast,
Oceanair House, 750-760 High Road,
Leytonstone, London E11 3BB.
September 1.

NHS waiting list

From Mr Nigel H. Harris, FRCS

Sir, In the light of the announcement that the NHS waiting list for treatment has fallen by over 45,000 in the last three months (report, August 27), it might be expected that those remaining on the list will have a shorter waiting time; but that is not inevitable.

Patients are not concerned by the numbers on a waiting list: what matters to them is the waiting *time*, and no information on this score has so far been provided. Yet it is this factor which can make all the difference between cure and palliation.

A six months' wait to be told a diagnosis is common (12-18 months in some specialities). The anxiety caused by that wait may lead to a curable condition becoming untreatable — after which a wait to come into hospital is irrelevant. Some patients die while waiting for an opinion about their cardiac condition, and patients with less serious conditions, such as back pain, may be off work for months while waiting for advice and treatment.

It is high time that waiting times to see a specialist were published on a regular basis. Meanwhile, it is astonishing to be told, as I have been, that the Government is aiming at 26 weeks. This is not nearly low enough.

Yours faithfully,
N. H. HARRIS,
72 Harley Street, W1N 1AE.
September 1.

From Dr S. Mahendran

Sir, You report that hospital waiting lists have been reduced "as expensive government initiatives begin to bear fruit". Health authorities were given the aim of reducing the patient list sizes. This meant that simple and quick operations were targeted, at the expense of more difficult ones.

I believe that doctors and nurses would have been very willing to work with managers to maximise the value of the extra money made available by the Secretary of State — for the benefit of all patients, not just those whose operations were short.

The time given for planning was ridiculously brief, doubtless so that action could be seen to be being done. It is a shame that so much emphasis has to be placed upon the *appearance* of change and to satisfy short-term political expediency.

I hope that, in the future, the rules surrounding how extra money is spent will focus not just on getting "numbers off lists", but on fairer selection criteria.

Yours faithfully,
S. MAHENDRAN,
The Shrewsbury Centre,
Shrewsbury Road,
Forest Gate, E7 8QP.

Terrorism Bill

From Mrs Rosemary Boyd

Sir, I am shocked to learn that the new anti-terrorist Bill (letters, September 3) will take immediate effect following the vote in the House of Lords because, according to a radio report this morning, HM the Queen had "signed it in advance".

How can this be justified? I think it is disgraceful that the monarch should have been put in this position. After all, obtaining her signature in the normal way would have delayed implementation of what is a controversial measure by only a few hours.

This is yet another example of the current administration's disdain for Parliament.

Yours truly,
ROSEMARY BOYD,
The Old Manor,
Flore, Northampton NN7 4LZ.
September 4.

Solicitors' earnings and legal aid

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, The statistics just published (report, "Top lawyers earn close to £900,000", September 1) of the fee income and partners' earnings of the top 100 solicitors' firms put in stark perspective not only the earnings of most solicitors but the whole debate on the legal aid budget over which the Lord Chancellor and others continue to agonise.

Whilst the 100 firms which cater essentially for the wealthiest in society last year billed their private clients £4.34 billion in legal fees, with average profits per partner between £300,000 and £875,000, total net legal aid expenditure divided between approximately 10,600 solicitors' offices and an unspecified number of barristers amounted to £1.6 billion; most solicitors dependent on legal aid would do well to gross £60,000, with many struggling on much slenderer margins.

With the Government searching for a viable form for the community legal service promised in its election manifesto, and at the same time determined to reduce the legal aid budget, I suggest that at least part of the huge private fee income solicitors generate (some £7.4 billion two years ago) could be channelled into funding a salaried public service, catering for the needs of the vast majority of the population.

Such a scheme would be in tune with measures being discussed elsewhere by Government to assign particular revenues for the public benefit.

I would hope at the very least that the Lord Chancellor, whose department is at present formulating a policy for the community legal service, would consider proposals that have been made to set up a number of pilot projects embodying this idea.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
B. M. Birnberg & Co (solicitors),
103 Borough High Street, SE1 1NN.
September 3.

Tory policy on Europe

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, That there is a difference of opinion within the Conservative Party regarding its policy towards fuller European integration has been amply demonstrated by recent letters to *The Times* (August 25, 28; September 2). There can be little doubt, however, that the Eurosceptical position is the dominant one.

At the last general election a large number of candidates nailed their colours firmly to the mast in declaring their opposition to the single currency. Since then, their number has been swelled by former ministers, now freed from the restraints of collective responsibility.

A Bruges Group pamphlet which I wrote in the summer of 1996, *The Conservative Conference and Eurosceptical Motions, 1992-95*, identified a hardening in the hostility of Conservative Party members to the EU in general and EMU in particular. Motions submitted to the 1996 and 1997 conferences continued that trend.

So, far from being concerned about attacks from the pro-single currency wing at this year's Conservative annual conference, William Hague would be best advised to concentrate his energies on meeting the challenge from the growing number of his MPs and grassroots activists who oppose his European policy because it is not sceptical enough.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BALL,
38 Greyhound Lane,
Streatham Vale, SW16 5SB.
September 3.

The 'Giving Age'

From the Executive Director of CSV

Sir, Kirsty Milne is absolutely right ("Don't give up on the Giving Age", August 27). Some progress has been made, as Alun Michael, MP, has indicated (letter, September 1), but the real challenge has yet to be tackled — where will volunteers be welcomed? Research reveals a quarter of the population is waiting to be asked to participate, but policymakers have yet to harness their energy.

This morning, for example, I received a Department of Health circular LAC (98) 21, headed "*The new NHS modern and dependable, developing primary care groups*" — 44 pages about delivering basic healthcare in the community; not one word could I find about involving volunteers. And yet in Lancashire the effectiveness of community nurses doubled when they began working in partnership with volunteers. In a Marylebone general practice, drug consumption and hospital appointments dropped over 15 per cent when volunteer energy was enlisted to support patients.

Nationwide young and senior volunteers lengthen and strengthen the impact of general practitioners, community nurses, teachers, social workers and police. What is needed is national leadership, with clear targets for the involvement of volunteers in all public services — and the humility to welcome volunteers as partners. Twelve million people await the call.

Yours sincerely,
ELISABETH HOODLESS,
Executive Director,
CSV (Community Service Volunteers),
237 Pentonville Road, N1 9NJ.
September 1.

From Mrs Penny Egan, Director of the RSA

Sir, Kirsty Milne has missed an important point about why the Prime Minister's vision of a Giving Age seems to be taking its time to materialise.

Earlier this year the National Centre for Volunteering reported a significant fall in response amongst 16 to 25-year-olds, but added that where volunteering offered something tangible in return, for example transferable skills and recognised qualifications, the figures held up much better. The sooner we recognise an element of self-interest in any giving, the more likely it is that giving through volunteering will grow.

For four years the RSA has pursued its conviction that there is a rich seam of opportunity for people of any age to gain vocational qualifications based on skills and competencies acquired through experience in voluntary work.

Our scheme, Project 2001, following a successful pilot in London, has been extended with a three-year programme in London and Yorkshire. Our aim is to ensure that the advisory service and small grants can eventually be replicated nationwide and without our supervision.

The Prime Minister should allow at least ten years for the Giving Age to acquire any meaning. Some real incentives, for example tax incentives, would make it easier to get there.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY EGAN,
Director,
The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce,
8 John Adam Street, WC2N 6EZ.

Testing infants

From Dr Julia Matthews

Sir, It was inevitable that the new baseline assessments for five-year-olds should attract the emotive words "test" and "streaming" (report, September 4). Infants are not to be "streamed" in the secondary sense. There is nothing new about grouping children who may well sit at the "red", "blue" or "green" table, where the necessary activities would be allocated to build on previous knowledge.

The main purpose of the baseline assessments is to help the teacher to find out strengths and weaknesses of each individual — and not to label five-years-olds as a D stream. Teachers will be able to foster the relationship with parents by discussing the results of the assessments and suggesting ways in which they can help to reinforce the work done in school.

As a spin-off, the baseline data will help, in conjunction with real "tests" at, say, age 11, to assess progress made during schooling.

Yours etc,
JULIA MATTHEWS,
50 Sydney Road,
Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8HG.

Recaptured Minquiers

From Dr R. A. Gelfer

Sir, Surely the appropriate reaction to the recapture of the Minquiers archipelago (report, September 2) by our brave British bobby from the perfidious Patagonians is "Rejoice, rejoice!"

Yours ecstatically,
RICHARD GELFER,
27 Fortis Green, N2 9JL.
September 2.

Mail shot

From Mrs Brigit Barlow

Sir, I have received a mail order catalogue which advertises a game for children under the heading "Action-packed electronic gun set!" There is a picture of two boys pointing guns at each other; both are wearing "chest targets that light up when struck".

This will get them away from the TV or PC, the catalogue tells us. A case of out of the frying pan into the fire, perhaps?

Yours sincerely,
BRIGIT BARLOW,
Elbrook House, Ashwell,
Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5NE.
September 4.

Two cultures

From the Reverend A. B. de T. Andrews

Sir, With the increasing use of fax machines and e-mail as cheap forms of communication, will the Royal Mail eventually cease to be financially viable? And, if so, where would that leave people like myself, who are not equipped with these marvels of science?

Is there value, after all, in the proliferation of junk mail to keep the system going?

Yours sincerely,
A. B. de T. ANDREWS,
Cordwainers, Iddesleigh,
Winkleigh, Devon EX19 8BG.
September 5.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Orchestra at ROH 'after the tempest'

From Mr Gavin Henderson

Sir, Rodney Milnes's *cri de coeur* for the Royal Opera, "Dump the suits, save the show" (Arts, September 3), is to be welcomed: the company's survival of the administrative tempest of the last year is remarkable, as is that of the Royal Ballet. However, his attack on the "rump" of the Arts Council (which presumably includes myself, as chairman of the music panel) is based on the false assumption that we are suggesting that the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra might replace the ROH Orchestra. This is not so.

The ROH orchestra has been fully stretched in playing for both the opera and ballet, with frequent need for extra players; and it has also sometimes been necessary for the Royal Ballet Sinfonia (house orchestra to the Birmingham company) to be scheduled in place of the ROH orchestra. If the Royal Philharmonic were engaged as orchestra for the Royal Ballet, the ROH orchestra would be left free to concentrate on opera work, while the Royal Ballet would have greater flexibility to develop its tours and other engagements.

Sir Richard Eyre's review team (of which I was a member) has not suggested that the ROH in-house orchestra should be dispensed with. Far from it — the new building will have technical facilities to significantly increase the number of performances. It will also have a second auditorium with instrumental needs of its own and, we hope, an intensified education programme. The existing orchestral team would be hard pressed to service all such needs.

In London we have an orchestral resource of unparalleled diversity and specialisms. Both in period instrument work and with contemporary ensembles, it ought to be possible for the new Covent Garden to take advantage of such potential.

Truly,
GAVIN HENDERSON
(Principal),
Trinity College of Music,
Mandeville Place, W1M 6AQ.
September 3.

London squares

From Mr John Horam, MP for Orpington (Conservative)

Sir, I am reluctant to disagree with Sir Philip Goodhart (letter, September 1), but I think he is entirely wrong about the problems posed by the plan to pedestrianise part of Trafalgar Square.

I strongly support "World squares for all" and have long thought that Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square and Whitehall need attention. I therefore support John Prescott's decision to push ahead with the Norman Foster plan.

I equally think that this is the sort of instance where decisive action by the relevant authority is the right approach, as was shown in the case of the City of London's "ring of steel" and the area in front of Buckingham Palace. People, in my experience, do adjust quite quickly. Spare us more cones, consultation and dithering.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HORAM,
House of Commons.
September 1.

From Mr Bernard Selwyn

Sir, The possible benefit of pedestrianising the north side of Trafalgar Square must also be balanced against other functions of the square.

While there is certainly room for improvement, pedestrians can now cross from the National Gallery reasonably safely. That is far from the case for the many wishing to cross between the south side of the square and Whitehall, The Mall and St James's Park. None of the proposals helps in this direction.

The square is also a vital night bus interchange and, long after most of us are in bed, it is thronged with tourists, late workers, etc.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD SELWYN,
3 Hogarth Road, SW5 0QH.
September 1.

The Uffizi-Pitti passage

From Dr J. H. Baron

Sir, You report (September 4) that the "secret" walkway between the Uffizi Gallery and the Palazzo Pitti is being opened to the public "after 500 years". However, my 1899 Baedeker describes it as the normal route for visitors between the two galleries, and for a small fee one's stick or umbrella left at the entrance of one museum would be conveyed to the exit of the other.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. BARON,
21c Randolph Crescent, W9 1DP.
September 4.

Thirty-nine more steps?

From Mr Michael Donley

Sir, I have just been given a bottle of Oil of Ulay Body Wash. The container explicitly promises me "40+ uses".

Try as I might, I have been able to think of only the one.

Yours inquisitively,
M. J. DONLEY,
72d Woodstock Road,
Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6DY.
September 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 5: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, the Caravan Club, this morning opened the Scottish Caravan Club Rally at Ballater and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Mr Angus Farquharson).

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 6: Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning. The Rev Robin McHaffie preached the Sermon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 6: The Prince Edward, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, this evening left Heathrow Airport, London, for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the XVI Commonwealth Games.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Greenwich Palace, 1533; Stephen Hales, physiologist and inventor, Bekesbourne, Kent, 1677; Comte Georges-Louis de Buffon, naturalist, Montbard, France, 1707; Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester 1869-73, Clapham, 1805; William Butterfield, architect, London, 1814; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, Glasgow, 1836; Clarence James Dennis, Australian poet, 1876; Dame Edith Sitwell, poet, Scarborough, 1887; Simon Marks, Baron Marks of Broughton, retail trade leader, Leeds, 1888; Leslie Hore-Belisha, 1st Baron Hore-Belisha, statesman and inventor of belisha beacons, London, 1893; Laura Ashley, designer, Merthyr Tydfil, 1925; Buddy Holly, pop singer, Lubbock, Texas, 1936.

DEATHS: Catherine Parr, sixth wife of King Henry VIII, Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, 1548; John Armstrong, physician and poet, London, 1779; Hannah More, evangelist and educator, Bristol, 1833; Hugh Sidney Lanier, poet and musician, Baltimore, 1881; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet and naturalist, Amesbury, Massachusetts, 1892; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1910; William Dent Priestman, inventor of the oil engine, 1936; C.B. Fry, sportsman, London, 1956.

The Russians were defeated by Napoleon's forces at the Battle of Borodino, 1812.
Grace Darling and her father rescued survivors of the steamer Forfarshire off the Farne Islands, 1838.
The Boxer Rising in China ended with the signing of the Peace of Peking, 1901.
Bishop Desmond Tutu was enthroned as Archbishop of Cape Town, 1986.

Albert Memorial

The Queen will reopen the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gore on October 30.



Malcolm Bradbury, the novelist, is 66 today

Birthdays today

Mr John Baxter, Head Master, Wells Cathedral School, 59; Major Sir William Wrixon-Becher, 83; Lord Charteris of Amisfield, 85; Mr Kevin Curran, cricketer, 39; Sir Paul Getty, philanthropist, 66; Mr Peter Gill, stage director, 59; Mr Christopher Green, former chief executive, English Heritage, 55; Miss M.G. Hampshire, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 80; Miss Dianne Hayter, former chief executive, European Parliamentary Labour Party, 49; Lord Jenkin of Roding, 72; Mr Elia Kazan, author, producer and director, 89; Mr Justice Ian Kennedy, 68; the Marquess of Londonderry, 61; Sir Douglas Lovelock, former chairman, HM Board of Customs and Excise, 75; Professor Sir Brian Pippard, FRS, physicist, 78; Mr Gordon Richards, racehorse trainer, 68; Mr Michael Robbins, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 83; Sir Neil Shields, former chairman, Commission for the New Towns, 79; Judge A. Simmons, 62; Lord Stone of Blackheath, 56.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Farnborough International Air Show, Hampshire at 11.30.

School announcements

Aiglon College
Term begins today. School Guardians are Anjali Anand and Martin Gikunda. Cultural Long Expeditions leave on October 19 and half term is October 25 to November 1. Aiglon's Golden Jubilee celebrations commence with the Parents' Weekend concert Round the World in 80 Minutes on October 23. The Carol Service will be on Thursday, December 10, and term ends on December 12.

Berkhamsted Collegiate School
The Michaelmas Term begins today and finishes on December 18. Edward Boddam-Whetham (Burgh) is Head Boy and Helen Davis (School) is Head Girl. The Founder's Day Service will be held on October 16 at 11am in St Peter's, with our guest of honour the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Dr Thomas Butler. Co-education is now offered in the new Preparatory School and in the successful Sixth Form, while single-sex education is retained for boys and girls aged 11-16. Our Open Day for prospective pupils and parents is Friday, September 25 (2-7pm): for further details, please telephone 01442 863236 or 862168.

Bromsgrove School
School convenes today for the Michaelmas term. The major drama production Blood Wedding will be performed on November 11, 12, 13 and 14. The Heads of School are Joanna Burley and Alexander Walsh. Term ends with the Carol Services on Wednesday, December 16.

Chetham's School of Music
Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. On Wednesday, October 21, Stephen Threlfall will conduct Chetham's Chamber Orchestra in a concert at Manchester Cathedral, to include works by Beethoven, Elgar and Stravinsky. On Sunday, November 8, Chetham's Big Band and Wind Band will take part in a charity concert at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, in aid of ActionAid. The school will be opening its doors on November 14, during the annual Open Day, when all those interested in Chetham's can visit, meet staff and students, and find out more about music and academic departments. There will also be chamber concerts at Dunham Massey Hall on Friday, November 13, and Wednesday, November 18. The Chamber Choir and String Orchestra will give concerts at Grappenhall, on Saturday, November 28, and Sandbach on Saturday, December 5. On Friday, December 11, the annual concert of Christmas Music will take place at Manchester Cathedral, following which term ends.

Cobham Hall
The Autumn Term begins today. Sheri Lucas continues as Guardian. There is an Open Day for parents of prospective pupils on Saturday, November 7. The School Carol Service is at 2.30pm on Saturday, December 12. Term ends on Sunday, December 13, at 9.00am.

The Leys School, Cambridge
The Autumn Term begins today. Kendra Butlin and Paul West are Senior Prefects. With an 11+ entry as well as 13+ entry the School roll has risen to over 450. Prospective pupils and their parents are invited to an Open Evening on November 26. The Sixth Form Scholarship examinations are on November 6 and 7.

Mill Hill School Foundation
Autumn term at the three Foundation schools begins today. Mr John Hawkins, Master of Belmont, takes up his post as Chairman of IAPS for 1998-99 and Mr Kevin Douglas has been appointed Acting Master for the academic year. The Rev James Fields joins as Chaplain to the Foundation. Mrs Adrienne Attree becomes Deputy Head of Grimsdell. The new Studio Theatre will be formally opened by Professor Maggie Pittard on Saturday, September 19. The Guest of Honour on Foundation Day, Saturday, September 26, is Sir Robert Balchin. The Prestige Lecture will be given by Professor Steven Jones on Thursday, November 19. Rugby and Girls Hockey teams from Wesley College and Perth College, Australia, will be hosted in early December. Term ends on Wednesday, December 16.

Malvern Girls' College
The School Year begins on Wednesday, September 9. The Head of Malvern Girls' College is Mrs Philippa M.C. Leggate. The Chairman of the College Council is Mr Rex Tedd, QC, BCL, MA. The Head Girl is Bryony Whipp and the Deputy Head Girl is Claire Alexander. Half Term is from Friday, October 23, to Sunday, November 1. Friday, October 23, is a College Open Day, this to include the official opening of the new Science Block. The Autumn Term ends on Friday, December 11. There are 430 pupils this year in the Senior School and 50 in the Preparatory School. Open Days for prospective parents will be held on October 17 (Sixth Form) and November 7 (Middle School). The Old Girls' Association will meet at The Royal Overseas League, St James's, London, on November 14 (tickets on request). The Christmas Carol Service will be held in Malvern Priory at 11.00am on Friday, December 11.

Malvern Girls' College is a registered charity no 527513 and exists to provide education for young ladies.

Oakham School
Winter Term at Oakham School begins today. Thomas Spall is Head Boy and Katie Benbow is Head Girl. Dr R. Marshall becomes Head of the Upper School, Mr E. Martin Housemaster of School House, Mrs G. Dixon Housemistress of Round House and Mrs M. Nicholls Housemistress of Hambleton House. The main drama productions will be The Crucible by Arthur Miller from November 18-20 and The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew from Decmber 3-5. Brahm's Requiem and Dvorak's Te Deum wil be performed by the Choral Society on December 13. Sixth Form Academic Scholarship Examinations will be held on November 9, 10 and 11. The Carol Service for parents will be held on the last day of term, Wednesday, December 16.

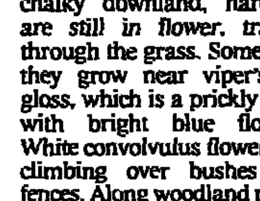
Old Buckenham Hall
The new academic year begins today and heralds the start of co-education at Old Buckenham Hall. Work will commence on the new all weather playing surface this week and the recently completed Pre-Prep building will be officially opened on Friday, October 23. There will be an Open Morning at the school on Saturday, October 10. The annual London reception will be held in The House of Commons on Thursday, November 19. Old Boys wishing to renew contact with their school should send their details to the School Office, Brettenham Park, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7PH.

The Oratory School
Michaelmas Term begins today. The School Captain is B.J. Flynn. Captain of Rugby is M.A. Jenkins. Half-term will be from October 22 to November 1. The annual Requiem Mass for Old Oratorians will be at 6.30pm on Thursday, November 12, at Brompton Oratory. The school play Journey's End will be performed by the Cardinal's Men on December 9, 10 and 11. Term ends after Mass on December 12.

St George's College, Weybridge
The School year starts today, beginning the final phase in the transition to co-education. The Heads of School are Siân Fletcher and Justin Stone. Father Paul Connor, CJ, is School Chaplain and the new Head of Sixth Form is Mrs Margi Lamey. The Guest of Honour at Prizegiving on Friday, September 18, will be Mr Michael Gooley, OG. Open Mornings will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26, and Old Georgians' Day is on Sunday, December 13.

St John's School, Leatherhead
The Michaelmas Term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. Jonathan Allen is School Captain and Matthew Gadd is Deputy Captain. Paul Dunckley is Captain of Rugby and Jacqueline Brett is Captain of Girls Hockey. The School play, Clifford Odets Golden Boy will be performed on October 21, 22 and 23 and Surrey House will perform My Three Angels by Sam and Bella Spewack on December 8 and 9. Choral Evensong is at 6.30pm on Wednesday, November 18, and the School Concert is at 7.30pm on Sunday, December 6. Open Evening is on Friday, October 16, from 6 to 9pm followed the next day by Open Morning, from 9.30am to noon. Lower Sixth entry tests for girls and boys are on Saturday, November 21. The Old Johnian Dinner will be held at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club at 7.30pm on Friday, October 2. There will be a Memorial Service for H.L. Kennedy (former Housemaster, East House) at noon on Saturday, September 26.

Nature notes



The titmouse

MANY house martins are still feeding young in their nests under overhanging eaves. This summer they have had no problems in finding mud to use as building material. Titmice are becoming very audible again as they travel in flocks through the trees looking for food. Coal tits, which are tiny, grey birds with a black cap and a white nape, are particularly noisy. Green woodpeckers normally feed on ants by pecking holes in anthills, but where fields are being ploughed, they will come down to find food in the new furrows. Their golden backs look bright against the dark earth as they fly up.

Seeds are spinning down from the lime trees, along with the first brown leaves. Oak trees are still very green, with fat green acorns still firmly attached to their cups. On chalky downland, harebells are still in flower, trailing through the grass. Sometimes they grow near viper's bugloss, which is a prickly plant with bright blue flowers. White convolvulus flowers are climbing over bushes and fences. Along woodland paths, a new generation of speckled wood butterflies are emerging from their chrysalids in the grass: they have brown wings dappled with yellow. DJM

Forthcoming engagements

Mr A.N. Beavis and Miss C.L. Collingwood
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Beavis, of Harborne, Birmingham, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clennell Collingwood, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.C. Chick and Miss A.M. Vine
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Chick, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Ailsa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus Vine, of Melrose, Roxburghshire.

Mr E.J. Leigh and Miss R.M. Streeter
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Leigh, of Wendens Ambo, Essex, and Rebecca, daughter of the late Mrs Nicola Streeter and of Mr Robert Streeter, of Clare, Suffolk.

Dr A.J. Otley and Miss V.L.R.M. Groom
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr J.A. Otley, of Pershore, Worcestershire and the late Mrs Otley, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr C.R. Groom, of Willington, Derbyshire, and Mrs M.H.P. Groom, of Repton, Derbyshire.

Mr M. Varvill and Mrs S.J.P. Harker
The engagement is announced between Michael Varvill and Sarah Harker, of London and Itchenor.

Church news

Appointment
The Rev Evelyn Houghton, NSM Assistant Curate, Bedford St John and St Leonard (St Albans): to be Curate (to be known as Associate Priest), Reading St Agnes w St Paul (Oxford).

Marriages

Sir David Finlay and Miss C. Acheson
The marriage took place on Saturday at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, of Sir David Finlay, only son of the late Sir Graeme Finlay and of June Lady Finlay, of Notting Hill, London, to Miss Camilla Acheson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Acheson, of Castlecaulfield, Co Tyrone. The Very Rev John Paterson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Arthur W.F. Acheson and Robert, Vita and Siena Knight Bruce. Mr Charles Mullins was best man. A reception was held at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Sir Geoffrey Dear and Mrs A.M. Jones
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of All Saints, Coleshill, Oxfordshire, of Sir Geoffrey Dear, son of Mr and Mrs C.W. Dear, of Peterborough, to Mrs Alison Jean Martin Jones, daughter of the late Dr Ian Martin and of Mrs Jean Martin of Tynemouth, Northumberland. The Rev I. Beckwith officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Mr Ian Homersham, and Mr Simon J.K. Dear, son of the groom, was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride's uncle, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D. Redvers and Miss L. Montgomery
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, of Mr David Redvers, son of Mr and Mrs John Redvers, of Hartpury, Gloucestershire, to Miss Laura Montgomery, youngest daughter of Sir David and Lady Montgomery, of The Home Farm, Kinross. The Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke officiated, assisted by Father Vladimir Felzmann.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lucy and Harriet Liddle, Iona Montgomery, Georgina Stewart, Sarah Batting, Miranda and Jack Jones and Hector Butler. Mr Andrew Elliot was best man and a reception was held at Kinross House.

Mr M.J. Hewitt and Miss L.F. Dawson-Brown
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Church, Lashingham, of Mr Michael Hewitt, younger son of Sir Nicholas and Lady Hewitt, of Huttons Ambo, North Yorkshire, to Miss Lucinda Dawson-Brown, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Dawson-Brown, of Low Askew, North Yorkshire. The Rev David Bryant officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Serena Dawson-Brown and Miss Victoria Hewitt. Mr Charles Hewitt was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Corsica.

Mr C. Henry and Miss Z. Ellison
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Stephen's Church, Lympne, Kent, of Mr Christian Henry, elder son of Sir Denis Henry, QC, and Lady Henry, of Warlingham, Surrey, to Miss Zigi Ellison, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ellison, of Lympne. The Ven Rod van Zuylen officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rachel and Monique Ellis, Sophie Wilson, Lily and Max Ellison, and Stephanie and Jessica Suterman. Mr Tim Smallwood and Mr Sheldon Henry were best men. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Bali, Lombok and Thailand.

Mr R.J. Delafield and Miss E.M.E. Willford-Persson
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, in Hyby, Sweden, between Mr Richard J. Delafield, son of Air Commodore John Delafield, retd, and Mrs Delafield, of Islip, Oxfordshire, and Miss Maria Willford-Persson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Willford-Persson, of Bara, Sweden.

Mr M.D. Gillott and Miss J.A. Watler
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, 1998, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Minster, Kent, of Michael David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Gillott, and Janine Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Watler.

Mr R.P. Miller and Miss P.S. Radford
The marriage took place on August 15 between Rowan and Penny at Stoughton, Leicestershire, with the reception at Uppingham School.

Mr F.T. O'Sullivan and Miss S.L. Archer
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, at Chelsea Old Church, between Mr Fergus O'Sullivan, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas O'Sullivan, of Perth, Scotland, and Miss Sophie Archer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jasper Archer, of Stapleford, Wiltshire. The Reverend Dr Peter Elvy officiated, assisted by Father Titus Kammerer.

The bride was given away by her father and attended by Holly and Ella Crerar and Georgia Lewis. Mr Andrew Richards was best man.

A reception was held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Dr M.J. Strickland and Dr D.R. Higgs
A service of blessing after the marriage of Dr Matthew Strickland and Dr Debra Higgs took place in Norwich Cathedral on September 5.

Mr P.W.B. Trueblood and Mrs E. Yuill
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, at The Servite Church, Fulham Road, between Peter W.B. Trueblood and Elizabeth Yuill.

After a honeymoon abroad, they will live in London.

University news

Oxford
St Anne's College
Elections
To Professorial Fellowships:
Professor Paul Strohm, J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language
Professor John M. Titchmarsh, Royal Academy of Engineering/AEA Technology/INSS Research Professor in Microanalytical Techniques for Structural Integrity Problems
To Official Fellowships:
Dr Patrick McGuinness, Tutor in Modern Languages
Dr Allison Harvey, Tutor in Psychology

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If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this wicked and godless age, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him. Mark 8 : 38.

BIRTHS

STAFFORD CHARLES - On 24th August to Harriet (née Mort) and Geoffrey, a son, Henry Richard.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

WRIGHT - Jean & Keith. Congratulations on your 40th anniversary. Love Beverley.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

STEWARD:BAILEY - Campbell to Elizabeth on 7th September 1948 at St. Bartholomew the Less, EC1. Still at East Runton, NR27 9PN.

DEATHS

ANDREWS - Dr Jean Romer (née Young) aged 85 on the 3rd September 1998 in The John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford, after a short illness. Qualified at Royal Free Hospital, 1938, formerly anaesthetist and medical practitioner. Wife of the late Professor W.H.H. (Digger) Andrews, mother of William, Christopher, Rosalind and David. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium, Bayswater Road, Headington, Friday 11th September, 2.00pm. Donations to League of Friends, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington.

ATKINSON - James (Jim), passed away peacefully on September 1st 1998 at Alton Community Hospital, aged 82 years. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral service at Basingstoke Crematorium on Friday September 11th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations to the Stroke Association, c/o Spencer and Peyton. Tel: 01256 323165

BARRON - John on 2nd September 1998. Kind and caring husband so precious to Ann. Most dearly loved by all his family. "There has been hidden to this day a giant among mountains" Henry J. Stanley.

CRICHTON - Patrick on 3rd September, peacefully at Homefield House Nursing Home. Beloved husband of Gill and loving father of Hugh, Jane and Desmond. Family funeral: Memorial Service to be announced. No flowers please, but donations to Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People, Leatherhead, Surrey.

GIBBS - On 3rd September peacefully George Arthur Elton Gibbs, Lt. Col. (Retired) in his 100th year. Husband of Suzanne. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Michelmersh on Friday 11th September at 1.30pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations to the World Wildlife Fund may be sent to A.H. Chester, Funeral Directors, Romsey, Hants.

GREY - Nevart (Poss), died peacefully at Lancaster on 3rd September 1998 aged 84 years. A very gallant lady now sadly missed by a host of friends. 'Per Ardua ad Astra'. The Funeral Service will take place at the Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium on Friday September 11th, commencing 12.30pm. Donations if desired may be sent to St. John's Hospice, c/o Preston Ireland Bowker Funeral Directors, 30B Queen Street, Lancaster LA1 1RX. Tel: 01524 64023

GRIFFITHS - Patrick. Tragically drowned off Eastbourne on 30th August 1998, aged 28. Much loved son of Maureen and John of Eastbourne and nephew of Paddy Holloway. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Tuesday 15th September at 11.30am. Enquiries to Haine & Son Ltd, 01323 727801.

HARDING - Rosemary, on August 4th, aged 84. Much loved by Jeremy, Beth, John and Kit. Funeral on Thursday September 10th, 11am, in New Church Yard, Braybrooke Road, Wargrave. Enquiries to A.B.Walker and Son, 0118 9573650.

KAY - Ella Laura (formerly Sullivan, née Dreesen), died peacefully on September 3rd 1998, aged 87. Dearly loved by her son Michael and Jill, and by her grandson Jonathan and Sali. Funeral service at St. George's U.R.C. Bexhill, Thursday September 10th at 11.00am, followed by cremation. Flowers or donations if desired to St. Michaels Hospice c/o Mummery F/D, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1AH.

LLOYD - Bodil (née Andersen), on Sunday August 30th, peacefully, at R.S.C. Hospital Guildford after a long fight with illnesses, borne with great courage and dignity, aged 70. Beloved wife of John and mother of Janet and Frances, dear mother-in-law of Richard and David and adored grandmother of Katharine, Madeleine and Imogen. Sadly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church Bramley, Friday September 11th at 11 am. followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to NSPCC, enclosing name and address and Bodil's name, either posting to NSPCC, at Broadfield House, Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 1RZ, or leaving at the church on September 11th.

LUCK - James on August 31st, peacefully at home. Husband of Doreen. Funeral at Amersham Crematorium on Friday September 11th at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Westair Ltd, Central Avenue, West Molesey KT8 2QZ.

McKENNA - William (Bill) died suddenly at his home in Bowness, Cumbria, on Sunday August 23rd, so dearly loved by his wife Maureen, children Liam, Louise, Helen, Celia - and Alison, Julian and baby Thomas.

NICHOLSON - Olive Daisy (née Castling), passed away on August 29th. Beloved widow of Charles, sister of Alice, Albert, Rose, Edith, Frederick, Harry, Hilda and Ivy, mother of Vivienne, grandmother of Tamzin and Dominic, great-grandmother of Billy and Minty. Cremation will be held on September 15th. She will be greatly missed by us all. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, High Road, Loughton, Essex.

NIGHTINGALE OF CROMARTY - Michael David, OBE FSA, on 2nd September 1998 aged 70, at Wormshill. Husband of Hilary and father of Emma, Rebecca, John, Alexander and Rachel. Funeral at noon on Friday 11th September at St Giles, Wormshill. No Flowers. Donations to Winchester College (Archives Fund) or Friends of Wormshill Church, c/o R.High & Sons, 1 Bayford Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3AD (01795 472958).

PEAREY - Captain Michael Alan RN (Retd.), until recently Clerk of CHrist's Hospital. Died on September 4th at home. Much loved husband of Thelma, beloved father, grandfather and brother. A very, very special person, friend to so many. Family funeral only. Memorial Service to be announced shortly. Donations, if desired, to The Benevolent Society of Blues c/o The Counting House, CHrist's Hospital Horsham, Sussex RH13 7YP. Tel: 01403 211293.

POLLARD - Arthur James (Jim) died on September 2nd 1998 aged 63 years after a valiant fight against cancer. Dearly beloved husband of Diana, devoted father of Wade, Keri and Brady and proud grandfather of Kate, Tom, Katerina and Elena. Funeral service to be held at St Johns Church, West Byfleet on Wednesday September 9th at 2.30pm followed by private committal. Flowers or donations if desired, made pay to Macmillan Cancer Relief c/o C Boutell & Son, 50 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7QL. Tel: 01932 345037

SHORT - On August 31st 1998, peacefully at home, Commander Keith Ivan Short OBE, DSC, RN (retired) of Esher Surrey and Portsmouth, Hampshire. Dearly loved and loving father of Ian, Vanessa, Robert and Fiona, much loved grandfather to many grandchildren, devoted husband of the late Lucy Teresa (Terry). Service Church of The Holy Name, Arbrook Lane, Esher 11am, Wednesday 9th 1998, followed by cremation at Randalls Park Leatherhead. Family flowers only. Donations to the Prostate Cancer Charity, c/o F.W.Paine, 108 High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9QJ. Tel: 01372 464021.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

KEATINGE - The memorial service for Sir Edgar Mayne Keatinge CBE (Mike), will be held on Saturday September 19th 1998 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Teffont Evias, Salisbury at 2.30pm and afterwards at Howard's house. Donations, if desired, for the Teffont Parochial Church Council, c/o I.N. Newman Ltd, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HL.

RUBENS - Freddie and Frances. A Memorial Service is to be held on Thursday September 17th at 6.30pm, West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street W1.

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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SURELUX LIGHTING LIMITED
t/a Surelux Lighting & DFL Lighting
(In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the unsecured Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Hilton National Hotel, Ainley Top, Huddersfield HD3 3RH on 25 September 1998 at 10.00am, for the purposes mentioned in Section 48 and 49 of the said Act.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are only entitled to vote if:-
a) they have given the Joint Receivers, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day on which the meeting is to be held, details in writing of the debt that they claim to be due to them from the Company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and
b) there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on their behalf.
Dated September 2 1998
IAN SCHNEIDER and I C POWELL
Joint Administrative Receivers
NOTE Creditors of the Company requiring copies of the Joint Administrative Receivers' report may obtain it free of charge, on written application to the Joint Administrative Receivers at PricewaterhouseCoopers, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.

In the Matter of
BENTLEY PAVING LIMITED
and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
This is to certify that a meeting of Creditors and Contributors of the above named company held on 26.8.1998 Jamie Taylor of Begbies Traynor, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG, having provided written statement that he is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above named company under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and that he consents to act was appointed Liquidator of the company. Dated this 26.8.1998.
SIMON ELLIS
Chairman

CHARITIES ACT 1993
Notice for the Transfer of Property under Section 74 (2)(a)
Charity Commission Number 210933 and 213128
The Trustees of
THE METROPOLITAN RELIEF IN SICKNESS CHARITY
THE METROPOLITAN NURSES FUND
THE WEST RIDING TRUST
THE SARAH S.L. GELDHART FUND
Hereby give notice that they have passed a Resolution under section 74(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993 for the following purpose: Transferring the property of the Charity named above to the following Charity
THE DISTRICT NURSES 1965 FUND
Any interested person wishing to make representations regarding the said Resolution may do so, quoting the Charity reference at the head of this Notice, within a period of 6 weeks from the date of this Notice, by writing to the Charity Commission for England & Wales at ST ALBANS HOUSE 57-60 HAYMARKET LONDON SW1 4QX.
Dated this 3.9.1998

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 004600 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF QUILTER HOLDINGS LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 13 August 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £13,200,000 to £12,134,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 16th day of September 1998.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 4th day of September 1998.
LINKLATERS & PAINES (DTL)
One Silk Street
London EC2Y 8HQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 003750 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF ALLIED ZURICH P.L.C.
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition was on the 2nd day of July 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the entire amount standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 16th day of September 1998.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 28th day of July 1998.
Herbert Smith
Exchange House
Primrose Street
London EC2A 2HS
Tel: 0171 374 8000
Fax: 0171 374 0888
Ref: 127/C436
Solicitors for the Company

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171 680 6878
OR
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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الأصل

AKIRA KUROSAWA



Akira Kurosawa, Japanese film director, died in Tokyo yesterday aged 88. He was born on March 23, 1910.



A scene from Kurosawa's film *The Seven Samurai*, featuring his favourite actor, Toshiro Mifune

Akira Kurosawa was the man who almost single-handedly introduced Japanese cinema to the West. When his film *Rashomon* was shown at the 1951 Venice Festival it made an enormous impression and took the top award of the Golden Lion. Yet to that point Japanese films were little known outside Asia. After *Rashomon* it was clear to critics that they could no longer be ignored.

A prodigious talent, who belongs with the handful of great artists to have worked in the cinema medium, Kurosawa combined an epic historical vision with a deep feeling for humanity. He had a complete mastery of the formal aspects of film, which he combined with a flair for powerful composition and vivid imagery. He told his stories with a deceptive economy of effort that concealed a complex mind.

Dubbed "the Emperor" because of his autocratic manner, he built a reputation as the most Western of Japanese directors, freely acknowledging the influence of old Hollywood masters like King Vidor and John Ford and often enjoying a higher reputation outside his own country than in it. For several of his films he drew on Western literary sources, particularly Shakespeare and Maxim Gorky, but also the American thriller writer Ed McBain.

The West, in turn, paid him the compliment of remaking some of his best-known works, generally in a manner which demonstrated the effortless superiority of the originals. Thus, *Rashomon*, in Kurosawa's hands a subtle exploration of different perceptions of a violent incident taking place in medieval Japan, became *The Outrage* in 1964, a spectacularly ineffective vehicle for Paul Newman. *The Seven Samurai* (1954) enjoyed a better fate at Hollywood's hands. It was the inspiration for *The Magnificent Seven* (1960) a good action picture fielding a clutch of stars, which only looked inferior when it tried to engage with the strangeness and subtlety of the Japanese ambience. *Yojimbo* (1961), another wry exploration of the samurai ethos, turned up in 1964 as the Sergio Leone film, *A Fistful of Dollars*, starring Clint Eastwood, thereby launching the spaghetti western. Kurosawa also provided the script basis for the gripping jailbreak movie *Runaway Train* (1985), made in America by the expatriate Russian director, Andrei Konchalovsky and starring Jon Voight.

Akira Kurosawa was born in Tokyo, the youngest of eight children of an army officer, and developed in his youth a passion for the European and American silent cinema. After trying unsuccessfully to make a living as a commercial artist, he answered a newspaper job advertisement requiring candidates to write an essay on the basic faults in Japanese cinema. As a result he was taken on as assistant director by a film company.

After scriptwriting and wartime documentaries, he made his debut as a feature director in 1943 with *Sanshiro Sugata*, which became a hit in wartime Japan. In the next seven years he made another ten films which did well in the domestic market before *Rashomon* brought him international recognition. Set in the 11th century, *Rashomon* was a study in ambiguity which offered four different, and equally plausible, versions of the same incident, in which a nobleman is attacked by a bandit and his wife apparently raped. In addition to its Golden Lion, it won a Hollywood Oscar for best foreign film.

Kurosawa followed it with *Ikuru* (Living), a perceptive and often amusing film about a Tokyo bureaucrat with only a few months to live who is determined to use them in the most fulfilling way. In contrast to this quiet chamber piece, *Seven Samurai* was the story of a group of warriors hired to defend a village against bandits. The affinities with the Western were obvious and Hollywood was not slow in taking the hint.

In 1957 Kurosawa turned to Shakespeare for *Throne of Blood*, a version of the Macbeth story transposed to 16th-century Japan. The Macbeth figure was played by Toshiro Mifune, who appeared in most Kurosawa films between 1948 and 1965, when a quarrel ended their partnership.

Mifune was also the star of *Yojimbo* (1961), playing an unemployed samurai who settles a feud between two groups of townspeople by playing one off against the other, and of *Red Beard* (1965), as a doctor ministering to the poor. In between, Kurosawa made *High and Low*, a contemporary thriller about a kidnapping, from a story by Ed McBain.

In 1967 Kurosawa was sufficiently established internationally to be invited by Darryl F. Zanuck to Hollywood to co-direct *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, an account of events leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. But after only nine days of shooting Kurosawa left the film, ostensibly for reasons of health, in fact after a dispute with the studio over artistic freedom.

The episode started a bleak period in Kurosawa's career. In 1970 he returned to Maxim Gorky's story of down-and-outs, *The Lower Depths*, which he had previously filmed in the 1950s. But *Dodeska-den* (1970), his first film in colour, was poorly received and its critical and commercial failure left him so depressed that he tried to commit suicide by slashing his wrists.

His next film, *Dersu Uzala*, a tale of a Russian surveyor mapping the Siberian wastes, did not appear until 1975, and was made not in Japan but the Soviet Union. Shot in Siberia, it was the second Kurosawa film to win an Oscar. When he did at last return to film-making in Japan with *Kagemusha* in 1980, it was partly thanks to money arranged by two Hollywood admirers, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. A fable about a condemned thief who doubles for a warlord, it shared the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1984, in his 75th year, Kurosawa finally realised a long-cherished project, *Ran*, adapted from Shakespeare's *King Lear*, with sons substituted for the daughters and a transvestite cabaret artist cast as the fool. The most expensive film ever made in Japan, it combined awesome spectacle with a piercing view of the human tragedy and showed that although Kurosawa had reached the veteran stage, he had lost none of his creative energy.

Kurosawa was married to the actress Yoko Yaguchi, who died in 1985. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

BRIGADIER F. H. B. INGALL

Brigadier Francis Ingall, DSO, OBE, died in California on August 21 aged 89. He was born on October 24, 1908.

IN A varied life as soldier, sportsman, actor and one-time honorary consul, Francis Ingall valued above all his wartime command of the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers in Italy and later his role as founder-commandant of the Pakistan Military Academy. Mechanised in India in 1940, the 6th Lancers served in Iraq in 1941 when the pro-British Regent Emir Abdullah was overthrown by the pro-Axis General Rashid Ali. After the restoration of Abdullah they went with the 8th Indian Division to Persia to counter the German threat to the oilfields in 1942.

After the invasion of Italy the 8th Indian Division landed at Brindisi in October 1943 and from then on the 6th Lancers fought their way northwards with the Eighth Army. Towards the end of the Italian campaign they took part in the British 5th Corps' offensive across the River Senio, in which they protected the right flank of the 8th Indian Division. The citation to the DSO Ingall was awarded records: "He fought his regiment with skill, cunning and daring. As the battle developed he seized every fleeting opportunity and by vigorous offensive action cleared pockets of the enemy, greatly aiding the advance to the Argenta Gap."

Thereafter he led the 6th Lancers in the advance from the Po to the Adige, keeping a weakened enemy on the run. As a result he was able to seize bridges over the Po's lateral tributaries before the Germans could blow them up.

At the end of the war in Europe Ingall returned to India as chief of staff of the 8th Indian Division. After partition in 1947 and the division of the old Indian Army between India and Pakistan, Ingall was selected by the C-in-C India, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, as first commandant of the Pakistan Military Academy, established at Kakul.

He determined to model the Pakistan Academy on Sandhurst and requested a regimental sergeant major from the Brigade of Guards to help with training. He was lucky, too, to have the support of a number of old Indian Army officers who transferred to the Pakistan Army, among them Lieutenant-Colonel Attiqur Rahman. In spite of facilities which were nowhere near the level of those enjoyed by the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, Ingall won the confidence of his cadets and instructors. When, late in 1947, the dispute over the accession of Jammu and Kashmir led to armed conflict between India and Pakistan, he was able to structure the Academy's training to enable newly commissioned officers to be immediately effective when they joined units on active service.

Ingall was appointed OBE after completing his term as commandant in 1950. What probably gave him more satisfaction was the decision to name Kakul's central lecture theatre Ingall Hall — though this was not built until many years after he had left. He kept in touch with the academy for the rest of his life, making his last visit as recently as last year when he took questions from an audience of 800 cadets in the hall named after him.

Francis Herman Barclay Ingall was born at Oxted, Surrey, and educated at Hurstpierpoint College and Sandhurst from where he was commissioned into the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers in the Indian Army in 1929. His first action with the regiment was at Karawal on the North West Frontier where he led a cavalry charge with drawn sword. In those prewar years he frequently played polo for his regiment.

After leaving his post at the Pakistan Military Academy, Ingall was for some years a director of Killick Nixon in Bombay. But in 1959 he took ship with his third wife to San Francisco and spent the rest of his life in the United States where he was a vice-president of several corporations, and president of the chamber of commerce of Tiburon, California, besides serving as honorary consul-general for Pakistan in San Francisco. He founded the Queen's Club in San Francisco in the early 1960s to foster friendship between the American and British Armed Forces.

He also acted in a number of professional stage productions, spoke on radio and television and lectured widely to university groups and local organisations. Kipling was a speciality of his. Ingall's autobiography, *The Last of the Bengal Lancers*, was published in 1988; he and his wife ran a restaurant, The Bengal Lancer, in San Francisco.

Ingall is survived by his third wife, Margaret, and by a son and daughter of his first marriage. A son of his third marriage died as a child.



Ingall: commanded the Pakistan Military Academy after serving in Italy with the 8th Indian Divison

ROY BRADFORD

Roy Bradford, MP for Stormont, 1965-1973, Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, 1973-74, writer, novelist and broadcaster, died on September 2 aged 77. He was born on July 7, 1921.

ROY BRADFORD will be chiefly remembered as a member of the ill-fated Northern Ireland Assembly of 1973-74, which had arisen out of the Sunningdale agreement of 1973. He was part of the liberal camp which followed Brian Faulkner into talks with the largely Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) in an effort to reach some sort of power-sharing devolved government in the wake of the abolition of Stormont.

The Sunningdale agreement was dealt a fatal blow in February 1974 when, despite ardent protests from John Hume, the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, called a snap general election at the height of the miners' strike, providing an opportunity for hardline Unionists to demonstrate the weight of anti-power-sharing sentiment. Under the banner of the United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC), they obliterated the ill-prepared and disorganised Faulknerite Unionists at Westminster, winning 11 of the Province's 12 seats.

Bradford, who had been appointed to Faulkner's Cabinet in November of the previous year, was the only member of the Executive to stand for Westminster. Canvassing under the banner "Ulster Unionist Pro-Assembly", he unsuccessfully campaigned for the seat of North Down where he was beaten by the UUUC candidate James Kilfedder, by a margin of over 16,000.

These were testing times for the beleaguered and deflated Executive, and cracks began to emerge. Bradford was criticised by other members for publicly expressing reservations about the deal, and in May 1974, when the loyalist Ulster Workers' Council called a strike in an effort to scupper Sunningdale, he made himself unpopular by making repeated demands that the Executive hold negotiations with the loyalist strikers.

He twice offered his resignation to Faulkner. Although he was sympathetic to the workers' cause, and opposed the use of troops on the streets in trying to break the impasse, Bradford felt that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Merlyn Rees, was giving succour to extremism by paying too much attention to the proposals of Sinn Fein and the Ulster Volunteers.



In June, a month after the fall of the Executive, and after much speculation and rumour, Roy Bradford left Faulkner's doomed Unionist rump and reverted to the anti-Sunningdale Official Unionist Party, by then under Harry West. In October he urged his constituents to vote for the hardliner William Craig for the Belfast East seat. By this time Bradford's role in national politics was finished.

Such vocal support for Craig, whose Vanguard party relied on considerable support and muscle from the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, was a remarkable move for Bradford. He had entered Stormont on a liberal ticket, elected as Northern Irish MP for the Victoria ward, East Belfast, in 1965.

By 1968 he had become Chief Whip and a year later, was made Minister of Commerce in the Province.

By late 1973 Bradford was being tipped by many in the Irish media as the next leader of the Ulster Unionists. Despite being somewhat short on modesty, he was both popular among his working-class Protestant constituents of East Belfast, and like Gerry Fitt, was liked by many in London and Dublin as a calm, clever and friendly figure.

Roy Bradford was a far cry from the stereotypical dour Ulsterman: he was a liberal and literate man who spent much time south of the border and across the Irish Sea. Born in Belfast to a father from Monaghan, after studying at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, he went to Trinity College Dublin, which in the 1940s remained one of the last bastions of southern Unionism. He maintained his interests in Dublin and the South (in 1994 he suggested that the Republic of Ireland might one day rejoin the Commonwealth) and was friendly with such southern liberals as Conor Cruise O'Brien.

After graduating in 1942 with a first-class degree in German and French, he worked in Army Intelligence in France and Germany. In 1950 he went to live in London where, aside from insurance and restaurant interests, he worked as a writer and broadcaster for BBC and ITV. He had several short stories published in the London *Evening Standard*, and in 1960 published his first novel *Excelsior*.

After the miners' strike of 1974 Bradford campaigned unsuccessfully as a member of the similarly ill-fated Northern Ireland Convention. In the 1980s he advocated a forum to discuss areas of common interst between Protestants and Catholics. He was elected as Ulster Unionist to North Down Borough Council in 1989, and in 1995 became Mayor of North Down, a post he used to criticise the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Nevertheless, during the peace process of recent years he remained enthusiastic about all-encompassing dialogue, Sinn Fein included.

Bradford was president of the Northern Ireland European Movement and in 1981 published his scond novel, *The Last Ditch*, a barely fictional account of a Stormont Prime Minister and his efforts to resist rule from Westminster. His last work, *Rogue Warrior of the SAS, a biography of* Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. "Paddy" Mayne, was published in 1987.

Roy Bradford was a keen golfer and a member of the Noise Abatement Society. He was sworn of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland in 1969.

His wife Hazel, whom he married in 1946, predeceased him in 1994. He is survived by his two sons.

Latest wills

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, retired farmer, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Northern Ireland Office 1974-76, Minister for the Arts 1976-79, Director Royal Opera House 1958-74, of London SW11, left estate valued at £650,791 net.

Lady **Clayton**, wife of the late Sir Robert Clayton, of Stanmore, Middlesex, estate valued at £1,188,549 net.

She left shares in her residuary estate to set up a fund to be known as the Sir Robert and Lady Clayton Fund to the Master Fellows and Scholars of Christ's College, Cambridge University.

Lady **Hall**, first wife of Sir John Hall, Bt, of Albury, Ware, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £881,582 net.

She left £2,500 to Albury PCC, Hertfordshire; £1,500 to Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London SW7; £500 each to Children of the Andes, London EC2, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and Church of Scotland; £250 each to Hertfordshire Conservation Society and Home Farm Trust of Bristol and to Messrs Crouch and Haskings of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, towards their next Christmas party.

Lady **Jones**, of Staplehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £208,370 net.

Lady (Algie) **O'Connor**, of Amesbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £447,709 net.

Lady **Worboys**, of Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,579,083 net.

Meredith Noel **Humphreys**, chartered electrical engineer, of Llandudno, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £12,590,956 net.

He left £2,000 to the Benevolent Fund of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Derrick Allix **Pease**, of London SW3, left estate valued at £6,040,951 net.

Peter Lowsley **Peake**, of Rd, Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £4,382,608 net.

William James **Austin**, of Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford, left estate valued at £2,501,863 net.

Edith Clara **Cobb**, of Liphook, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,746,954 net.

Arthur Kingscote **Potter**, retired civil servant, of Midhurst, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,946,806 net.

He left £1,000 each to Abbeyfield Society and L Barnardos.

John Cedric **Thistleton-Smith**, of Fakenham, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,615,310 net.

He left £2,000 to the London Association for the Blind; £1,000 each to Wine Trade Foundation Society, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Norfolk County Cricket Club, £500 each to Malvern College, West Norfolk Cricket Club and Little Snoring Village Hall and Playing Field Association.

Alan **Thomson**, of Carlton, Nottingham, left estate valued at £1,326,885 net.

Robert David James **Walker**, of London NW11, left estate valued at £1,019,999 net.

Alfred Lionel Frederick **Woodiwiss**, of London W4, left estate valued at £1,124,090 net.

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THE TIMES TODAY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

NEWS

BSkyB prepares United offer

■ Negotiations to finalise a formal offer for Manchester United of about £575 million from BSkyB were continuing last night, with at least two of the football club's directors arguing that the price was too low for a unique asset.

A number of politicians also expressed concern over any deal, including Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who said that an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading was possible because of the profound consequences ..... **Pages 1, 5, 28, 48**

Yeltsin offers power-sharing

■ President Yeltsin will meet his parliamentary opponents today for make-or-break talks that will determine whether Russia emerges from its political paralysis. After intense haggling, Mr Yeltsin is expected to offer opposition leaders a power-sharing agreement ..... **Pages 1, 11**

Monarchy shake-up

Downing Street last night sought to distance itself from proposals for a radical shake-up of the monarchy drawn up by an influential New Labour think-tank.... **Page 1**

Patten comeback

Chris Patten,the former Governor of Hong Kong, declared that he would be open to offers to make a comeback as an MP next year ..... **Page 1**

Union pressure

Trade union leaders will today put further pressure on the Prime Minister to help industry and protect jobs amid growing uncertainty in the economy ..... **Page 2**

Drug allegations

Tory peers are threatening to expel the Earl of Hardwicke, 27, from their party after allegations that he dealt drugs inside the Houses of Parliament..... **Page 3**

Hawking's message

Stephen Hawking, the Nobel prize-winning scientist, has sent a message to the British Association for the Advancement of Science condemning activists who try to block experiments on animals..... **Page 4**

CS gas alarm

The Police Complaints Authority has given warning of a backlash against the use of CS spray, after judges' criticisms over its misuse and growing public concern about its effects ..... **Page 6**

Walking lesson

Children will take part today in an attempt to prevent traffic congestion caused by the school run. The "virtual bus" is seen as a cheap way of persuading parents to let their children walk to school..... **Page 8**

£1million club

Fifteen Queen's Counsel who reputedly earn £1 million a year are named this week in a survey of earnings at the Bar ..... **Page 9**

Kosovo warning

In the strongest condemnation of Belgrade's war policy in Kosovo to date, two leading US human rights officials gave warning of an impending human catastrophe..... **Page 10**

Anxious homecoming

President Clinton returned from Russia and Ireland to face the worsening crisis over his presidency as more leading Democrats deserted his cause and Washington waited for the impeachment report ..... **Page 12**

Invasion threat

Iran moved 70,000 troops close to the Afghan border in a tacit threat to invade..... **Page 13**

Planting policy

More than a million Chinese lumberjacks will trade their axes for shovels as part of a three-year plan to replant the forests and prevent a repeat of this summer's devastating floods ..... **Page 13**

Day of rest and shopping

■ Shopping has become an accepted part of the British Sunday, with almost half of the country's stores opening and less than a quarter of shoppers opposed in principle to the practice, according to a new survey. The poll showed that many Britons buy leisure goods on their day of rest with 60 per cent of sports stores open on Sundays ..... **Page 7**

TONY CHARNOCK



Ziggy, a 7-year-old tortoise, with Linda Jones at a meeting of the British Association of Tortoise Keepers in Droitwich, Worcestershire

BUSINESS

Action vacuum: Stock markets face a vacuum in official action to forestall the the spread of recesssion and a flood of cautious reports from big companies..... **Page 48**

Russian exposure: The European Bank, once known for spending more on its headquarters than it lent, is to make provisions against investments in Russia..... **Page 48**

Air orders: Up to $10 billion of orders may be announced at the Farnborough Air Show but most attention will be on a restructuring that will transform the the industry within two years..... **Page 48**

New insurer: Europe's second biggest insurance company, formed a merger of Zurich, Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, already has plans for expansion ..... **Page 44**

FEATURES

Smiling through: In the first extract from his biography, Richard Branson describes some of his highs and lows and tells of his despair as he was forced to sell the company that made his name..... **Pages 16, 17**

Ocean power: Giant windmills in the sea bed may create vital energy. Anjana Ahuja reports..... **Page 14**

Hot thoughts: South Africa's electricity company, Eskom, is looking at nuclear technology, a source of energy that has been neglected since the Sixties ..... **Page 14**

FASHION

Geisha glamour: Wearing a kimono is as much a state of mind as a flamboyant fashion statement, says Grace Bradberry ..... **Page 15**

ARTS

Boys will be girls: The transsexuals and transvestites known as the Lady Boys of Bangkok bring their cabaret to London ..... **Page 18**

Proms premiere: Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra offer a substantial half-hour score by Birtwistle, commissioned by the orchestra and given its European premiere..... **Page 18**

Festival music: The final days of the Edinburgh Festival see a celebration of the music of Smetana, including Scottish Opera's staging of his *Dalibor* and a concert performance of his *Libuse* ..... **Page 19**

Festival theatre: Ivo van Hove's Edinburgh Festival staging of *Caligula* has managed to make the story of Camus' tragedy totally relevant to today..... **Page 19**

SPORT

Football: Doubts about Glenn Hoddle's tactical adaptability were raised by England's 2-1 defeat by Sweden in the European championship qualifying match . **Page 29**

Tennis: Tim Henman marked his 24th birthday by beating Michael Kohlmann, of Germany, in four sets to keep British interest alive in the US Open ..... **Page 27**

Cricket: Wasim Akram, after leading Lancashire to a nine-wicket win over Derbyshire in the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's, spoke of his sorrow at leaving the club at the end of the season ..... **Page 26**

Golf: Sven Struver, of Germany, gained the third European Tour victory of his career by beating Patrik Sjoland, of Sweden, in a play-off for the European Masters ..... **Page 26**

Equestrianism: The formidable Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, won first and second prizes at the Burghley Horse Trials on Chesterfield and Aspyring ..... **Page 27**

Rugby Union: Saracens, favourites for the Premiership, began the season with a 34-7 win over Northampton, three of the tries coming from new signings ..... **Page 32**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Happy families: the domestic paintings of Pieter de Hooch go on show in London

■ LAW
A leading solicitor speaks out for the trial by jury system

LOTTERY NUMBERS

9, 10, 11, 27, 42, 47. Bonus: 8.
Five tickets each won £1,425,455; 19 won £115,421 for five numbers and the bonus; 855 won £1,603 for five; 57,053 won £52 for four; 1,091,408 won £10 for three.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Trading standards officers investigate a sex shop (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lenny Henry is Tigger out of *Winne the Pooh*, says Paul Hoggart ..... **Pages 46, 47**

OPINION

War of Jenkins' ear

The closer the scrutiny given to the alternatives, the stronger becomes the common-sense case for keeping the present system for electing the House of Commons ..... **Page 21**

Look at the girls

The numbers of girls who are outclassing boys in examinations have been steadily growing. Educationists claim to be baffled; but a Government out to raise overall educational standards should identify the reasons ..... **Page 21**

Wisdom in trees

Taoist philosophy stressed that man should live in harmony with his world. Yet China has often suscribed to less benevolent values. Beijing should be congratulated for deciding to redress the damage of deforestation ..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
President Clinton is a brilliant emotional campaigner but there is a piece missing. He has no moral compass..... **Page 21**

PETER RIDDELL
The hardest test for any government is to do nothing when the news is bad ..... **Page 21**

OBITUARIES

Akira Kurosawa, film director; **Roy Bradford**, former Stormont MP; **Brigadier Francis Ingall**, Indian Army..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

The merchant navy; solicitors' earnings; ROH orchestra's future; Tories and Europe; the "Giving Age"; NHS waiting lists; testing infants..... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

It is paradoxical that Iran and Afghanistan, both of which lay claim to revolutionary Islam and both of which have clerical Muslim regimes, are on the verge of war. This is partly because the extremist radicals in Tehran are fomenting war as a way of manouevring against moderates and undermining moves toward liberal reform

— *La Repubblica*, Rome

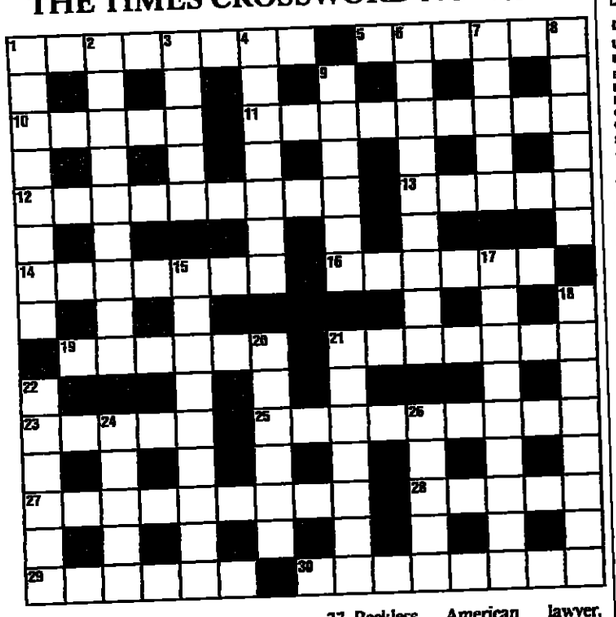


TIM

Hodd

Storm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,890



ACROSS

1 The way in which trimmer cuts shrubby border (8).
5 Piece of land passed by children playing (6).
10 Stupid people making change in Rome (5).
11 Inferior headgear worn by male sailor (9).
12 Europeans represented in San Marino (9).
13 Valid description of eagle in action (5).
14 Son taken to uncle in traumatic state (7).
16 Companies in back-street securing inadequate return (6).
19 Analysing blood, for example, for key operation (6).
21 Government control in Jacques Tati's medium (7).
23 Wild cat formerly seen round university (5).
25 Order in which figures rise (9).
27 Reckless American lawyer, bloody corrupt (9).
28 Put to use like fruit? (5).
29 What person carrying the can needs, for a start (6).
30 The first dramatic event in Eden, say — Eve's beginning (8).

DOWN

1 A point others support (8).
2 To change to spirits ordered by me is odd (9).
3 French art attracting Asian money in German city (5).
4 Where to find fruit or vegetable (7).
6 Going round rings frightens a horse (9).
7 Resounding noise made by family group initially (5).
8 Portrait painter one king held to be promising (6).
9 Accommodation in county the crucial point (6).
15 The sort of close decision that may cut both ways (5-4).
17 Precept cardinal pronounced (9).
18 Hand in which East takes many a trick with ease, we hear (8).
20 An archdeacon, for example, raised in conventional place (6).
21 Indian city on river one entered in uniform (7).
22 Religious sorcery some people practise — which ones, say? (6).
24 Sauce bottle (5).
26 Spanish coin originally minted in this kingdom (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,889 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Pershore, Worcestershire, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 0.47in highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray, 8.4hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** windy, especially in south-west areas where exposed coastal areas will have winds close to gale force for a time. Overnight rain will move away from eastern England and northeast Scotland to leave sunny spells and sharp blustery showers almost everywhere. The best of any sunshine and the fewest showers will be over western Scotland and northwest England. Across SW England, Wales and perhaps Northern Ireland showers will merge into steadier rain this afternoon.

Tonight, very windy, especially in the south and west. Most areas will have further showers and longer periods of rain, possibly with thunder, although the west should become dry with a few clear spells later.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, E England, E Anglia, Midlands:** sunny spells but showers soon developing. Freshening southeasterly wind. Max 22C (68F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales:** heavy showers with steadier, possibly thundery rain later. Strong south to southeasterly wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **NW, Cent N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** sunny spells and isolated showers which will become more widespread later. Fresh E to SE wind. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** early rain clearing to leave sunny spells, but showers arriving later. Moderate to fresh southeasterly wind. Max 20C (68F): cooler on the coast.

☐ **Cent Highlands, NE, NW Scotland:** some sunshine, but also the odd isolated shower. Moderate to fresh east to southeasterly wind. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Moray Firth:** mainly dry with some warm sunshine. Fresh southeasterly wind. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, spells of rain, clearing to showers later. Moderate to fresh SE wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **N Ireland:** scattered heavy showers merging into a spell of heavy rain with the risk of thunder. Strong, variable wind. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy; outbreaks of heavy, thundery rain, persistent for a time. Brighter, showery in south later. Strong to gale-force SE wind, veering SW and decreasing a little. Max 21C (70F)

☐ **Outlook:** staying unsettled with frequent showers and a gusty wind. Becoming cooler in the north on Wednesday

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

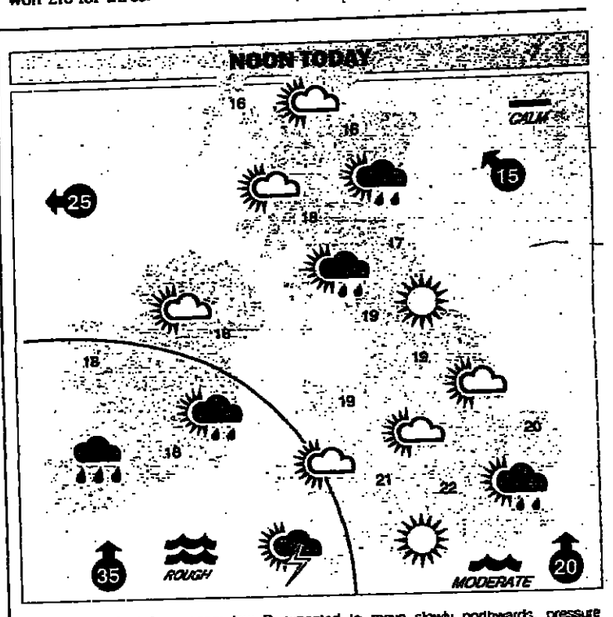
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.9	-	14	57	fg	Leeds	0.8	0.01	19	66	c
Anglesey	2.7	0.02	19	66	sh	Lerwick	1.4	0.02	13	55	c
Aspatria	2.7	0.01	19	66	r	Lauchars		0.01	14	57	sh
Aviemore	5.4	-	20	68	s	Littlehmptn	5.5	-	19	66	b
Belfast	0.1	0.05	17	63	r	London	1.6	-	21	70	b
Birmingham	3.1	0.01	20	68	r	Lowestoft	0.2	0.02	17	63	c
Bognor R	6.9	-	20	68	b	Manchester	1.6	0.01	19	66	b
Bournem'th	2.2	0.05	20	68	r	Margate	1.4	0.02	20	68	c
Bristol	0.7	0.01	20	68	r	Minehead	X	-	-	-	-
Buxton	0.3	0.01	18	64	r	Morecambe	1.8	0.02	20	68	sh
Cardiff	X	0.09	19	66	r	Newcastle	4.0	-	19	66	sh
Clacton	X	0.47	17	63	c	Newquay	0.3	0.11	19	66	b
Cleethorpes	4.1	0.02	19	66	s	Norwich	2.6	0.04	20	68	c
Colwyn Bay	2.5	0.01	21	70	sh	Oxford	2.6	0.01	21	70	c
Cromer	2.8	0.01	18	64	c	Penzance	1.5	0.04	20	68	sh
Dunbar	4.5	0.01	19	66	c	Poole	1.7	0.06	20	68	r
Eastbourne	1.4	0.01	16	61	sg	Prestatyn	X	0.01	20	68	b
Edinburgh	1.4	0.01	19	66	c	Ross on Wye	2.2	0.04	21	70	b
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.15	19	66	r	Salcombe	4.6	0.13	19	66	sh
Exmouth	X	-	-	-	-	Saunton Snd	0.8	0.07	19	66	sh
Falmouth	X	-	-	-	-	Scarboro'	2.6	0.03	17	63	c
Fishguard	1.6	0.07	18	64	r	Shrewsbury	0.9	0.01	20	68	c
Folkestone	5.4	0.31	19	66	b	Skegness	2.9	0.02	18	64	s
Glasgow	1.4	0.01	19	66	r	Southend	2.8	0.01	20	68	b
Guernsey	2.0	0.01	21	70	c	Southport	X	0.04	20	68	sh
Hastings	4.7	0.28	19	66	b	Southsea	4.7	-	20	68	c
Hayling I.	2.7	0.01	20	68	b	Stornoway	6.6	-	20	68	s
Herne Bay	X	-	-	-	-	Swanage	2.3	0.10	20	68	sh
Hove	5.3	-	21	70	c	Teignmouth	1.3	0.17	19	66	r
Hunstanton	1.0	0.06	19	66	c	Tenby	0.8	0.08	18	64	sh
Isle of Man	0.9	0.02	17	63	c	Tiree	1.1	0.03	17	63	r
Isle-of-wight	3.7	0.06	19	66	c	Torquay	1.3	0.13	19	66	sh
Jersey	5.2	-	22	72	b	Weston s Maro	X	-	-	-	-
Kinloss	8.4	-	22	72	s	Weymouth	2.9	0.09	19	66	sh

ABROAD

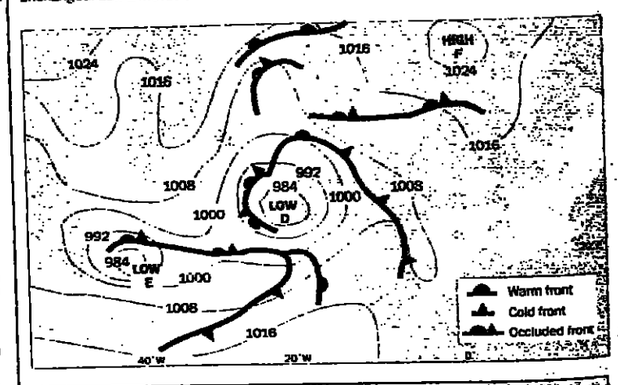
Ajaccio	26	79	s	Corfu	30	86	f
Alvotiri	29	84	s	C'phagn	17	63	s
Alex'dria	30	86	f	Dublin	17	63	c
Algiers	31	88	s	Dubrovnik	27	81	s
Amst'dm	18	64	f	Faro	23	73	s
Athens	31	88	s	Florence	25	77	f
B. Aires	21	70	f	Frankfurt	19	66	f
Bahrain	37	99	s	Funchal	27	81	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	19	66	r
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	29	84	s
Barcelona	28	82	s	Helsinki	15	59	s
Beirut	30	86	f	Hong K	30	86	f
Belgrade	23	73	f	Innsbruck	13	55	f
Berlin	20	68	s	Istanbul	24	75	f
Bermuda	31	88	f	Jeddah	36	97	s
Biarritz	22	72	f	Jo'burg	25	77	s
Borde'x	22	72	f	L Angels	22	72	f
Brussels	18	64	f	L Palmas	27	81	s
Budapst	18	64	c	La Tquet	19	66	f
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	26	79	s
Cape Tn	17	63	s	Locarno	20	68	s
Ch'church	11	52	X	Luxembg	19	66	f
Chicago	29	84	s	Lyaor	38	100	s
Cologne	18	64	f	Madrid	25	77	s
Majorca	29	84	f
Malaga	34	93	s
Malta	30	86	s
Melb'rne	13	55	c
Mexico C	19	66	f
Miami	25	77	f
Milan	27	81	s
Montreal	22	72	s
Moscow	12	54	f
Munich	14	57	r
N Delhi	33	91	s
N York	24	75	s
Nairobi	X	-	-
Naples	27	81	f
Nice	30	86	s
Oslo	13	55	c
Paris	21	70	f
Peking	29	84	s
Perth	16	61	f
Prague	16	61	c
Reykjavik	12	54	s
Rhodes	29	84	s
Rio de J	26	79	f
Riyadh	43	109	s
Rome	27	81	f
S Fr'sco	20	68	s
S Paulo	X	-	-
Salzburg	14	57	r
Santiago	20	68	s
Seoul	30	86	f
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	17	63	f
Strasb'rg	21	70	f
Sydney	17	63	r
Tangier	25	77	s
Tel Aviv	31	88	f
Toronto	30	86	s
Tunis	27	81	f
Valencia	31	88	s
Vanc'ver	22	72	s
Venice	23	73	r
Vienna	16	61	r
Warsaw	19	66	s
Wash'ton	29	84	s
Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Zurich	19	66	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart from noon: low D expected to move slowly northwards, pressure unchanged. Low E moves eastwards, starts to fill. High F remains in situ, pressure unchanged



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:21	4.6	13:56	4.5	Leith	2:42	5.8	15:09	5.9
Avonmouth	7:37	13.8	19:58	14.2	Liverpool	11:38	9.8	23:57	10.2
Belfast	11:22	3.5	23:36	3.7	London Bridge	3:05	7.5	14:21	7.5
Cardiff	7:23	12.7	19:44	13.1	Lowestoft	9:35	2.7	22:15	2.8
Devonport	6:04	5.6	18:21	5.9	Margate	0:11	4.9	12:19	5.0
Dover	11:20	7.0	23:39	6.9	Milford Haven	6:32	7.3	18:52	7.6
Dublin	-	-	13:00	4.1	Newquay	5:23	7.2	17:43	7.4
Fishguard	5:35	5.4	17:52	5.7	Oban	6:06	4.1	18:28	4.4
Greenock	0:49	3.8	13:12	3.5	Penzance	4:52	5.7	17:13	6.0
Harwich	0:04	4.2	12:19	4.1	Portland	7:33	2.2	19:49	2.4
Holyhead	10:40	5.7	22:55	6.1	Portsmouth	11:41	4.9	23:54	4.9
Hull (Albert Dj	8:35	9.0	19:00	9.0	Shoreham	11:38	6.7	23:52	6.8
Ilfracombe	6:19	9.6	18:40	9.9	Southampton	11:07	4.8	23:24	4.9
King's Lynn	6:34	7.3	19:10	7.1	Swansea	6:44	10.0	19:02	10.4
					Tees	3:48	5.8	16:22	5.7

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.22 am — Sun sets: 7.34 pm
Moon sets: 7.22 am — Moon rises: 8.18 pm

London 7.34 pm to 6.24 am
Bristol 7.44 pm to 6.34 am
Edinburgh 7.52 pm to 6.30 am
Manchester 7.45 pm to 6.30 am
Penzance 7.54 pm to 6.47 am

Last quarter September 13

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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Tait achieves joint honours at Burghley
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Derbyshire blown away by Lancashire in NatWest Trophy final
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PLUS
Henman shines in New York
PAGE 27

OPEN SEAM
Champions given the runaround by Richmond
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

CREDIBILITY GAP WIDENS FURTHER FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS



England's poor display in Stockholm gave Hoddle few reasons to be cheerful. Yesterday, however, he argued that the 2-1 defeat against Sweden was not a calamity. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Hoddle stays calm amid storms around England

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN STOCKHOLM

THE missiles are being hurled at him with increasing force and regularity, but still they bounce off Glenn Hoddle's wall of self-conceit. "Do I look like someone who is distraught?" the England coach asked on Saturday in the aftermath of England's 2-1 collapse in Sweden. To be fair to him, he did not.

Defeat at the Rasunda Stadium here, as Hoddle argued long and hard, was not a calamity. It has, though, further stocked the arsenal that can be turned on the England coach and the heavy shelling is likely to get worse before it gets any better.

The ignominious display has turned his next European Championship qualifying match, at home to Bulgaria in five weeks, into a must-win game. Even from this distance, there is an ominous look of more storms ahead.

Hoddle will have to field a team that will certainly be without David Beckham and Paul Ince, who suspended; Darren Anderton and David Batty are highly doubtful. In short, he will be robbed of the heart of his team. What was already sure to be a tense occasion will now be a fraught one, and it will take more than the combined soothing powers of Eileen Drewery and Kenny G to guide England safely through.

Hoddle remains confident of qualification for the championships and one defeat was hardly likely to destroy that notion. As he was quick to point out on Saturday evening, England lost a World Cup qualifying game at home to Italy and still finished top of their group. "It's not a disaster," he said. "It is too early to say that."

The coach's credibility is coming increasingly under siege however and the defeat on Saturday made laughable the notion Hoddle expressed in his World Cup diary that "it should have been me" lifting the World Cup. If it did not sound like self-satisfying nonsense a week ago, it certainly does now.

Hoddle attempted to play down the effects of the endless book controversies, but his case was undermined by his own captain, who admitted that minds had been led astray by the serialisation sagas. How could it be any other way when so much unease has been allowed to fester?

"I couldn't understand how it all went wrong," Alan Shearer said, "and I don't think all the crap that went on before the game helped, all the stuff about books and all the publicity. It didn't affect me because my skin is thick but it could have affected others. One thing is for sure, it certainly didn't help.

"In the circumstances it is the worst possible result because we could have killed off all of this and instead we have allowed it to continue. I wish we could play on Saturday and get this out of our system. Instead we have a long wait which will allow it all to build up again."

Despite this pessimism, Shearer insisted that the panic button should not be pressed and that there should be no speculation about Hoddle's job. The England coach hardly helped himself in that regard, however, by initially declining opportunities to rule himself out of the running for the vacancy at his former club, Tottenham Hotspur.

"I've got a contract with the Football Association for the next two years and there are talks around the corner," he said after much pressing. "Nothing has changed from a few weeks ago. Of course it hurts, it hurts immensely. But there is a difference from the World Cup because this was the start of a campaign; Argentina was the end."

Hoddle must secure victories over Bulgaria and then away to Luxembourg next month to ensure that this campaign still has plenty of life left in it, but his team is certain to be badly weakened, with Ince's dismissal on Saturday a terrible blow.

The Liverpool midfield player is certain to be given a one-match ban. Worse could await if Pierluigi Collina, the Italian referee, reports the 30-year-old for his shameful actions on being shown the red card.

After screaming three words of abuse in the official's face — the nicest of which was "bald" — Ince had to be restrained by Shearer, and compounded his loss of temper by flicking a V-sign to the crowd as he walked to the tunnel. If any of the incidents are reported by Collina or Mathieu Sprengers, the Uefa delegate, Ince's suspension could be increased.

Anderton also seems certain to be absent. He had a scan on the knee which gave way in the first half and is expected to be out for six to eight weeks with ligament strain. Mrs Drewery can expect a knock on the door. Batty is also struggling as he recovers from an operation on his Achilles tendon.

Beckham will still be suspended after his red card against Argentina during the World Cup, so after not having anyone dismissed since Ray Wilkins 12 years ago, England have now lost a player in successive games. While Hoddle can hardly be held entirely responsible for the discipline of his team, it hardly reflects well and even Michael Owen, booked for a wild lunge, appears to be suffering from frustration.

"He's got to learn to count to 10," Hoddle said. "He is still a youngster. I think there is probably too much heaped on his shoulders at this time with the hysteria." Hoddle might argue that he is suffering from similarly hysterical times, but he has only himself to blame for that.

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Ince gets his marching orders against Sweden

The absence of Ince and Beckham, through suspension, and Batty and Anderton, through injury, could cost England dear against Bulgaria at Wembley next month

ENGLAND DISMISSALS

Alan Mullery	v Yugoslavia,	Florence,	1968	
Alan Ball	v Poland,	Chorzow	1973	
Trevor Cherry	v Argentina,	Buenos Aires	1977	
Ray Wilkins	v Morocco,	Monterrey	1986	
David Beckham	v Argentina,	Saint-Etienne	1998	
Paul Ince	v Sweden,	Stockholm.	1998	

GROUP 5 TABLE*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

*not including last night's match

GROUP FIVE FIXTURES

Oct 10: Poland v Luxembourg, England v Bulgaria. Oct 14: Bulgaria v Sweden, Luxembourg v England. Mar 27, 1999: Sweden v Luxembourg, England v Poland. Mar 31: Luxembourg v Bulgaria, Poland v Sweden. June 5: Poland v Bulgaria, England v Sweden. June 9: Luxembourg v Poland, Bulgaria v England. Sept 4: Sweden v Bulgaria, England v Luxembourg. Sept 8: Luxembourg v Sweden, Poland v England. Oct 9: Sweden v Poland. Oct 10: Bulgaria v Luxembourg.

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Australia	10p	49p	80%
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Germany	10p	28p	64%
Japan	16p	67p	75%
USA	6p	24p	75%
UK mobiles	15p	30p	50%

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AXS

CRICKET

Crawley cashes in as Lancashire win the lottery

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Derbyshire by nine wickets

WHEN the rain relented, this was the fastest and flattest of all September cup finals, reduced by climate and circumstance to a mockery of a proper cricketing contest. It will be remembered by precious few outside the Lancashire dressing-room and should serve as conclusive proof that this showpiece of the season must be moved to a more auspicious time of year.

Next season, when domestic one-day cricket is revolutionised by a two-division league and an expanded NatWest Trophy, the single remaining cup final will be played on the last Saturday of August — a step in the right direction when a couple of strides would have been more appropriate.

Timing cannot guarantee good weather, as the drenching of the last Benson and Hedges Cup final in July testifies, and there is a cosy sense of completion about the end-of-season final. But the game has moved on — it takes longer to play and carries far greater rewards than of old — so it is an increasing anomaly to stage the biggest one-day match of summer when the days are short, the dews severe and the weather variable.

This game lasted 67 overs and offered little more than four hours of cricket. Many of the capacity crowd on Saturday had gone home before play began at 4.30pm and the game concluded yesterday in a ground three-quarters empty.

The groundsman was blameless. When the teams surveyed Mick Hunt's pitch on Friday it was hard, dry and chalk-white. By the time the covers came off, after 15 hours of rain, it was moist and tinged with green. Yet again, the toss was destined to decide a final that has now been won 12 times in 13 years by the side bowling first.

It would almost certainly have been more competitive had Lancashire, demonstrably the better equipped team, been obliged to bat first. That said, Derbyshire could hardly have had a better start than an opening stand of 70 between Michael Slater and Kim Barnett.

In their forthright and individual styles, they exploited some wayward opening overs from Wasim Akram and Peter Martin. There was movement available but the bowlers could not control it, and when Slater drove Glen Chapple over extra cover for six, Derbyshire were in improbable command.

It was a deceptively fragile platform. With the same speed that afternoon turned to evening, Derbyshire contrived to lose seven wickets for 11 runs. If it sounds feebly submissive, it should be said that the bowling, from Ian Austin and a refocused Martin, was close to unplayable.

Slater left berating himself for hitting across the line of a full-length ball from Austin, but the majority of those who subsequently came and went with bewildering speed were out to extravagant movement off the seam, their sins never more than nervy, minimal foot movement.

Martin's second spell brought him four for four in five overs, while Austin was exemplary throughout; but for an unfortunate four overthrows his figures would have been startling. In such quintessentially English conditions there is no more effective seam bowler.

If Austin wins a World Cup place, it may come at the expense of Dominic Cork, though the efforts of the Derbyshire captain here were irreproachable. With the bat, he survived until bad light curtailed play on Saturday and was then the victim of a dubious decision yesterday. With the ball, he tried valiantly to defend the indefensible.

Derbyshire's 108 was the lowest total by a side batting first in 36 finals. They had no logical hope but if Michael Atherton had been caught at slip, as he should have been, in Cork's first over, it might at least have given an edge to proceedings.

Instead, Lancashire's openers reached 28 before Cork moved one up the slope to hit Atherton's off stump and that only ushered in Neil Fairbrother to demonstrate why he, too, may have a World Cup role. With John Crawley striking the ball cleanly in the game's only half-century, it ended before lunch in dreadful anticlimax.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Lancashire won toss.

DERBYSHIRE

M J Slater lbw b Austin (62 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)	34
K J Barnett b Martin (55 balls, 1 four)	23
A S Rollins c Flintoff b Martin (10 balls)	1
R M S Weston b Austin (4 balls)	0
M E Cassar c Chapple b Austin (18 balls)	5
B L Spendlove lbw b Martin (10 balls)	4
† D G Cork c Hegg b Wasim (34 balls)	5
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Martin (2 balls)	0
K M Krikken c Hegg b Flintoff (16 balls)	2
‡ P Clarke b Wasim (7 balls, 3 fours)	13
K J Dean not out (6 balls)	0
Extras (lb 5, w 7, nb 8)	20
Total (36.4 overs, 154min)	108

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70 (Barnett 23), 2-70 (Rollins 0), 3-71 (Rollins 1), 4-71 (Cassar 0), 5-81 (Cassar 6), 6-81 (Cork 0), 7-81 (Cork 0), 8-94 (Krikken 2), 9-102 (Clarke 8)

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8.4-1-39-2 (nb 4, w 5; 3 fours, 5-0-23-0, 3.4-1-16-2), Martin 9-2-19-4 (w 2; 1 four, 3-0-12-0, 6-2-7-4), Chapple 8-0-27-0 (1 six, 3 fours, one spell), Austin 10-5-14-3 (one spell), Flintoff 3-1-4-1 (one spell)

LANCASHIRE

M A Atherton b Cork (26 balls, 2 fours)	10
J P Crawley not out (92 balls, 11 fours)	53
N H Fairbrother not out (64 balls, 5 fours)	38
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 2)	8
Total (1 wkt, 30.2 overs, 121min)	109

G D Lloyd, A Flintoff, *Wasim Akram, I D Austin, †W K Hegg, G Yates, G Chapple and P J Martin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-38 (Crawley 14)

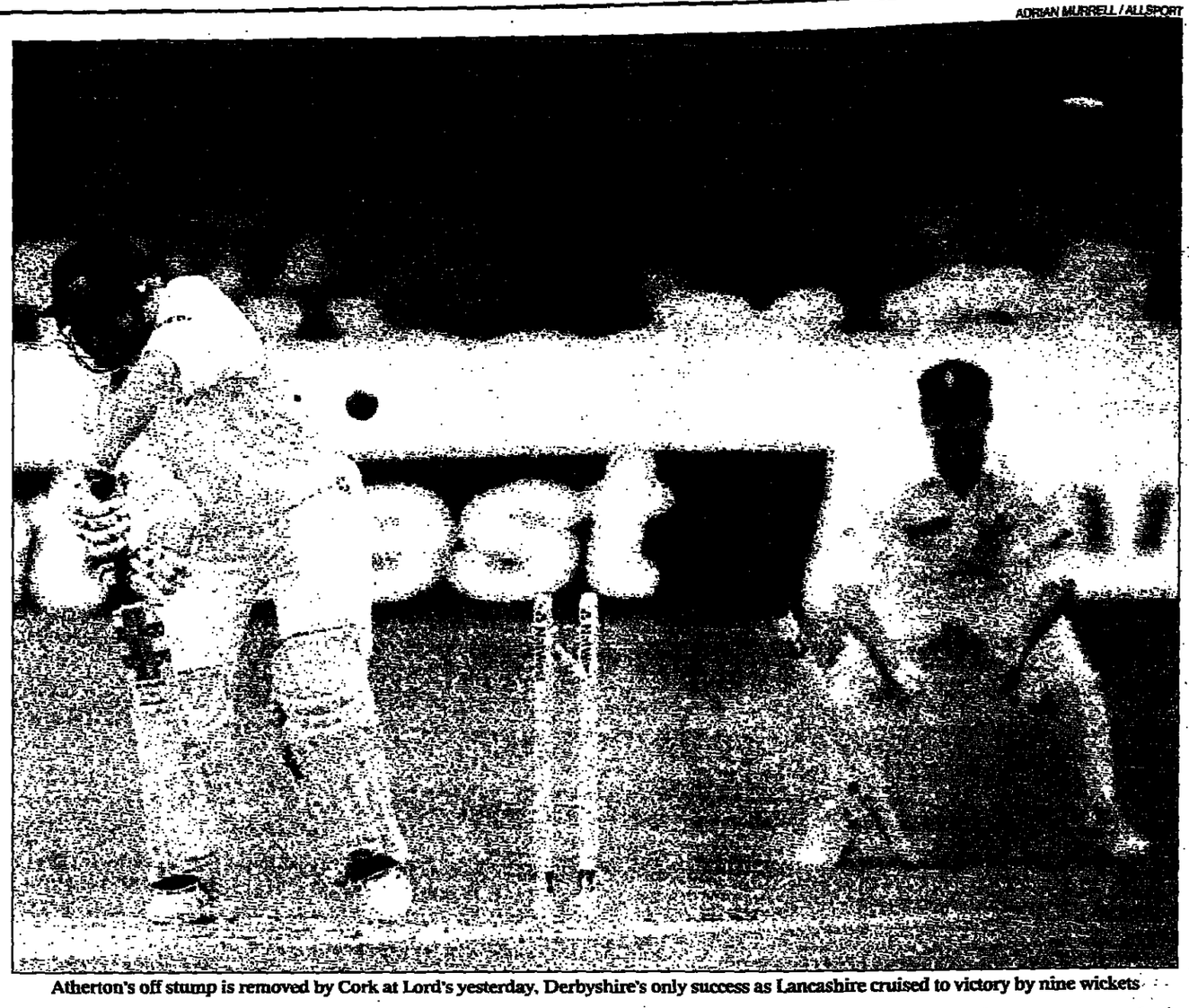
BOWLING: Cork 10.2-4-24-1 (4 fours; 2-0-5-0, 4-3-4-1, 4-1-14-0, 0.2-0-1-0), Dean 5-0-38-0 (nb 1, w 1; 7 fours; 2-0-12-0, 3-0-26-0), DeFreitas 9-3-13-0 (w 1, 2 fours, 6-2-11-0, 3-1-2-0), Cassar 6-0-32-0 (w 2; 5 fours, one spell)

Lancashire won by nine wickets

Match award: I D Austin (Adjudicator: D I Gower).

Umpires: K E Palmer and G Sharp. Third umpire: B Leadbeater

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*



ADRIAN MURRELL / ALLSPORT

Atherton's off stump is removed by Cork at Lord's yesterday, Derbyshire's only success as Lancashire cruised to victory by nine wickets

Wasim celebrates a valedictory triumph

Michael Henderson sees the Lancashire captain preparing to leave on a high after victory in the Natwest Trophy at Lord's

Wasim Akram accepted the NatWest Trophy yesterday on behalf of Lancashire and then, with hand on heavy heart, confessed how much he would miss them. The Pakistan all-rounder, who first played for the county in 1988, will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season to widespread gratitude for his past deeds, and everybody's best wishes for the future.

At a committee meeting tonight, by which time Lancashire may have added the Axa League to the cup they won yesterday, the club will appoint John Crawley as their new captain. They will also decide to go ahead with the recruitment of Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner, as their overseas player. They have spoken to him and he has agreed to join them.

Wasim has played fair by the club, informing them earlier this year that their requirement was a spin bowler, preferably an off spinner, and therefore to approach Muralitharan, who bowled out England at the Oval last week.

It will be hard for Wasim to leave. He has a house in Cheshire and is genuinely fond of the club and its players, but he realises that, though he might like to play on next year, after the World Cup, nobody can conquer time. He is coming to the end of his benefit season, which seems an appropriate time to take his leave.

"I told them I was available next year," he said, "but I will be happy with whatever they decide. I have enjoyed the best part of my career with Lancashire and, whatever happens in the future, I will always want them to do well."

Although Lancashire's intentions may be for the best, it will strike outsiders as an odd time for Wasim to be going. He remains a magnificent bowler, is popular in the dressing-room and, in his first year as captain, he has presided over a successful team. Apart from the Sunday league, they are also third in the county championship with a genuine chance of winning it outright for the first time since 1934.

Yesterday, in a poor final ruined utterly by the foul weather on Saturday, they proved much too strong for Derbyshire, who lost a toss that both captains admitted was crucial. The ball that Dominic Cork found to dismiss Michael Atherton was probably the only happy memory that Derbyshire will take away from Lord's.

It was the sixth cup final at Lord's for Wasim and he has been a winner four times. Atherton, Warren Hegg and Ian Austin have appeared in eight, because they played on the winning side twice in 1996, when Wasim was leading the Pakistan touring side, but top of the list is Neil Fairbrother, who has seven medals from his ten finals. When you throw in a World Cup final at Melbourne in 1992, he truly is the master finalist and yesterday it was his honour to hit the winning run. The man-of-the-match award went to Austin, who now holds the individual medals for both knockout finals. He won the other two years ago, against Northamptonshire in the Benson and Hedges Cup. Only Clive Radley, the salty old seadog from Middlesex, can match that.



Lloyd: considered position

Lloyd pulled back from the brink

BY ALAN LEE

DAVID LLOYD suffered three days of mental turmoil before pledging, yesterday, to continue as England coach. Distressed by the events of last week, when he received what amounted to a final warning to control his public comments and conduct, Lloyd seriously contemplated resignation before being won over by the entreaties of those closest to him.

"I felt I had to spend some time considering my position," he said yesterday. "It's been a very difficult week for me, but I have received overwhelming support from the public, both through letters and from those I've met. Reactions like that show me that the developments in and around the team are being appreciated.

"The England players and staff have also been very supportive and I've no wish to let any of them down with a big winter ahead. This is a wonderful job and I remain very positive about it."

Lloyd, close to the edge on Friday and wondering whether his position had been rendered untenable, was bombarded with backing, even from his predecessor, Raymond Illingworth.

The most pertinent calls, though, came from England players, including the captain, Alec Stewart, and from the coaching and technical team. Several of the staff — colloquially known as Team England — were apparently intent on resigning in sympathy if Lloyd had felt obliged to stand down, a measure of the intense loyalty that he commands.

Lloyd will wisely keep his own counsel over any dismay at the proceedings that followed his remarks about Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), though, may have handled the issue as badly as Lloyd initially handled himself.

As the ECB's first responsibility is to its own employees, and through them the health of the national team, it might have been assumed that it would instinctively support and protect Lloyd, even amid the public need to reprimand him. Instead, in a sequence of ways, it left him open to feelings of precarious neglect.

First, Richard Peel, the director of corporate affairs, created a media feeding frenzy by saying that Lloyd "could be sacked" — a contingency that virtually no one had considered. Then, at the inquiry that followed, Lloyd was left to feel that he had to operate in future like a man walking on rare china.

Remarkably, I understand, the comment for which he was reprimanded was not contained in the widely-quoted television interview, which the Board considered acceptable. It was when he said, in response to questioning at a press conference, that he would be "making his views known to the authorities", that the Board took offence.

Lloyd, in fact, had already made those views known by writing to the match referee before the Oval Test match. Nevertheless, Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, saw the remarks as needlessly endangering good relations with his Sri Lankan counterparts.

There is a theory that Graham Gooch is being lined up to replace Lloyd. There are those observers who feel a change would be a good thing.

The players, however, and all those closest to them do not agree, which is a powerful reason why the Board should now be ensuring that the incumbent coach feels more wanted and comfortable.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles soar as new-look Cup begins

AYR Scottish Eagles started the new season just as they ended the old one: beating Cardiff Devils. Third period goals by Mark Montenari, Sam Groleau and Dennis Purdie helped them to a 5-4 success in their opening match in the Benson and Hedges Cup (Norman de Mesquita writes).

London Knights, the newcomers, went down 6-2 to Nottingham Panthers. Jamie Leach and Steve Roberts each scored twice for the Panthers. Manchester Storm prevailed over Sheffield Steelers by the odd goal in seven, thanks to a late goal from Jeff Tomlinson. Kevin Hoffman gave them the lead after only five minutes and they were never headed.

Bracknell Bees edged Newcastle Riverkings 4-3, with Sal Manganaro scoring twice and Shane McCosh getting the decider.

This season, the Superleague and British National League (BNL) teams are being kept apart until the quarter-final stage to eliminate one-sided games. In the two groups featuring the BNL clubs, Slough Jets were the only winners, 5-4 at home to Guildford Flames, while the other two games — Fife Flyers against Paisley Pirates and Kingston Hawks against Peterborough Pirates — were drawn.

CYCLING

Lovatt takes honours in grand prix

MARK LOVATT, normally a worker bee for the Ambrosia team, had the best win of his ten-year career yesterday when he went clear with five miles remaining in the 103-mile Brian Rourke grand prix near Stone, Staffordshire (Peter Bryan writes).

Ten miles earlier, the result had looked signed and sealed for Jon Clay, Team Brite's captain with four Premier Calendar event victories to his credit this season, who led a successful escape from the leading bunch of ten accompanied by Lovatt and Rob Lyne.

Clay's bid proved shortlived, however; he suffered hunger "knock" and could not hold the pace, leaving his two companions the stronger. Lovatt put in his decisive solo attack on a slight rise and shed Lyne, who finished 45sec behind. Clay found something of a sprint to take third place, 1min 11sec after Lovatt crossed the line.

There is only one event remaining in the 19-race Premier Calendar competition which Chris Newton (Brite) has already won.

☐ Jeroen Blijlevens, the Dutch TVM rider, won the second stage of the Tour of Spain after a sprint finish in Cadiz yesterday. Marcus Zberg, of Switzerland, kept the overall lead.

GOLF: GERMAN GAINS THIRD TOUR VICTORY AFTER WINNING PLAY-OFF

Struver reveals nerves of steel

FROM MEL WEBB IN CRANS-SUR-SIERRE

IT WAS tense: it was enough to make the blood run cold in this mountain eyrie perched 5,000 feet up the Swiss Alps. The Canon European Masters went into only its second play-off in the past ten years yesterday, and the man who summoned up the nerves of steel was Sven Struver, who overcame Patrik Sjoland, the long-time leader, at the first extra hole.

The personable German thus gained the third European Tour victory of his career after he had tied with Sjoland, who is fast becoming one of the standard-bearers of Swedish golf, on 263, 21 under par. Darren Clarke made some progress in his season-long joust with Lee Westwood for top place in the Order of Merit, the Ulsterman closing to within £5,500 of the Englishman.

Sjoland's failure to win cost him the chance to replace Colin Montgomerie in third place in the money-list. Montgomerie, meanwhile, was in full red-faced paddy mode after spoiling an excellent inward half by double-bogeying the last. Understandable, really: the poor chap has only won £455,000 this season.

Such matters of high finance did not really concern Struver. Miracles excepted, he is not remotely likely to intrude in such stellar affairs, although victory did promote him from 39th in the Order of Merit to twelfth. For him, the glory in this victory, quite aside from the warm feeling that winning conveys, was the £133,330 that he took home to Hamburg.

Struver's previous two wins — the 1996 South African PGA and the 1997 Dutch Open — were both worthy ones but, in terms of kudos, this was by a margin the most prestigious. He has not been in serious trouble of losing his player's card since he qualified for Tour membership for the second time in as many years in 1991; this victory, with its five-year exemption, guarantees him his place well into the millennium.

He did it the hard way, too. He started the day four strokes adrift of Sjoland who, it appeared, needed only to keep control of the form that he had produced over the first three days to claim his second victory of the season.



Struver: upset the odds

If that was his aim, he failed. When set alongside the confident 66 of Struver, his closing 70 was an untidy, uncoordinated performance. "I did not play well enough on the day," he said ruefully, and he was right.

The way he played the 18th hole, both in regulation play and play-off, encapsulated the difference between his golf and that of his conqueror. On the 72nd hole of the tournament, Sjoland put his second shot to 15 feet and sent his birdie putt charging 4½ feet past. Struver, meanwhile, rolled in his putt from five feet for a birdie to put the piece into extra time.

There was nothing to choose between the two protagonists as they loosed their drives off the 18th tee for the second time in the day: both in the middle of the fairway, both set fair. There was not a great deal to choose between them, either, on the second shot: Sjoland 12 feet away, Struver a couple of feet inside him.

So, now, the marathon of the previous four days, traipsing for miles at altitude, had come down to a simple putting contest. Now he whose nerves afflicted him less would prevail, and that man was Struver.

Sjoland missed his birdie putt from 12 feet by inches. This was Struver's chance, and he took it quite beautifully, rolling the ball in smoothly from ten feet. He had stuck to his task and upset the odds as they were laid at the start of the day. Victory, especially such a hard-earned one as this, was sweet.

Scores, page 40

Gustafson blows in

SOPHIE GUSTAFSON, of Sweden, claimed the £15,000 winner's cheque after 60mph winds wiped out the final round of the Donegal Irish Open at Ballyliffin yesterday. Organisers were left with little choice but to abandon the competition, but Gustafson and the joint third-round leader, Iben Tinning, of Denmark, fought out the title in a sudden-death play-off.

Gustafson, who will make her Solheim Cup debut later this month, almost drove the green at the 367-yard 18th, and a par four was good enough for the 24-year-old to add the title to her only previous tour win in the 1996 Swiss Open.

Tinning, who has never finished higher than fourth in two years on tour, drove into the rough and took a disappointing three more to reach the green for a double-bogey six.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Doohan closes gap after Imola victory

■ **MOTORCYCLING:** Michael Doohan, of Australia, won his fifth 500cc grand prix of the season at Imola yesterday. The world champion finished ahead of Alex Criville, of Spain. Doohan is now only four points behind Max Biaggi, of Italy, in the world championship.

The World Superbike championship is also heading for a close finish after wins for Carl Fogarty and Pier-Francesco Chili in round 11 at Assen, Holland. Six points separate the leader, Troy Corser, from Aaron Slight and Fogarty with one round to go.

Patriots are back on top

■ **BASEBALL:** Menwith Hill Patriots re-established themselves as Britain's top team yesterday, winning the Coors League series by taking the second game of the best-of-three final against London Warriors, the 1997 champions, 17-15 at Pavilion Field, Brighton. The Patriots, an all-American team from a US military base in Yorkshire, had to fend off a London recovery as the Warriors came back from 17-9 in the eighth inning.

Senden holds his nerve

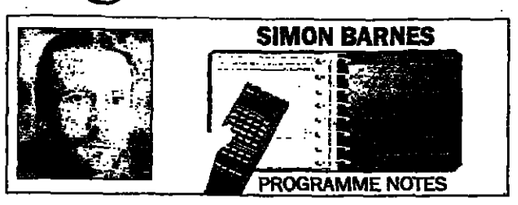
■ **GOLF:** A par at the first hole of a sudden-death play-off was enough to give John Senden, of Australia, the Open de Strasbourg title over Daren Lee, of Essex, yesterday. The two had tied on 276, 12 under par, at La Wantzenau. Senden after a closing 68 to Lee's 70. At the first play-off hole, Lee found the bunker and the water for a bogey five, while Senden took two putts to take the £7,309 first prize.

McGwire homing in

■ **BASEBALL:** Mark McGwire, of the St Louis Cardinals, became only the third player in Major League history to score 60 home runs in a season with a 381-foot hit against the Cincinatti Reds on Saturday. He is now tied with Babe Ruth for the second highest number of home runs in a season and needs one to tie Roger Maris's record, set in 1961.

صكذا من الأصل

Henman still searching for authority to fulfil potential



The Tim-watching season has an extension, for those who *truly* care. No longer is tennis restricted to an annual fortnight of orgiastic television. For tennis fans — a quite different genus from Wimbledon fans — today's endless and seamless output of television sports now brings an additional treat with live coverage of the US Open.

It has always been my favourite grand-slam event to visit, because of its excellent tennis and my own impossibly romantic feelings about New York. It vexes me, the way people complain about its various ghastlinesses: noise, New Yorkers, concrete, food.

I always travelled to Flushing Meadows by subway, reading my latest plunder from Strand bookstore, and nightly dined on a "mozarella, tomayto and baysil" butty. And revelled in the tennis which, being on splendidly appropriate concrete, lacks both the dainty brutalities of Wimbledon and the eternal chicaneries of Parisian clay.

On Sunday morning, Greg Rusedski made his third-round exit around about the hour the Gestapo come to call. Poor old Greg looked rather a mess; since the ankle injury that caused him to abandon Wimbledon in the year that he really believed he might win it, he has been walking around the world like Charlie Brown, beneath his personal black cloud.

In New York this weekend, he looked rather more like Basil Fawlty as painted by Edvard Munch: perhaps the thing that most upset him, as he went down to Jan Siemerink, was the thought that Henman was still alive and kick-serving in this tournament. And, by the same token, perhaps the most dispiriting thing for Henman as he set about his match with the German, Michael Kohlmann, was the thought that Rusedski had already gone.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about Henman is Rusedski: perhaps the most interesting thing about Rusedski is Henman. The success and failure of each is connected in the most extraordinary and intimate fashion.

Success for the one is almost invariably followed by greater success for the other. Then comes a period in which they seem to take turns waxing and waning at the other's expense.

The performance of the one invariably affects the performance of the other, sometimes as inspiration, sometimes as the most terrible depressant. Each is unable to do anything in isolation; they know everybody will compare the latest ranking, the latest tournament, with the achievment or the failing of the other. Everybody will do it, but they will do it first. Important point: both will deny this, and do so with their dying breaths.

Some people have liked to talk about the relationship in terms of hate, but it goes much deeper than that. It is not so much a matter of personal emotions as of ineluctable personal involvement. There is simply no escape from each other.

They are doomed, it seemed, to spend their tennis lives as one half of this rivalry/pact/duumvirate. Their fates are caught up together, and they are doomed to spend their lives trapped in the other's gravitational system, like twin suns.

And I have an odd feeling that it was Rusedski's third-round, Fawlty-esque collapse — thank you, God! Thank you so bloody much! — that somehow disinspired Henman when British tennis came back to British screens on Sunday tea-time, which is also time for morning coffee and donuts in NYC.

Greg had already gone, that tournament within a tournament — for each, perhaps, the crucial tournament in every Grand Slam — had already been won. Henman found it hard to play serious tennis. The spirit was willing, but the backhand was weak. So was the service: at one point in the second set he had a first service success percentage of less than 40 per cent. Not good enough.

Dropping his service, trailing 3-5, he then managed to get himself going, took the second set 7-5. And then did that little skip of self-approval that you sometimes see from him at moments of heightened emotion. Then came disaster in the third set, serious embarrassment, after which he showed his basic toughness to take the fourth set and the match.

Gerry Williams, commenting on Sky, said at the start that he believed Henman was ready to take his place among the game's elite. "His potential," Williams said, "is limitless." But there comes a time in the life of every promising young man when he just has to stop being one.

And start delivering. Henman has done amazingly well, no question about that. But, if he is to do better — if he is to fulfil the things on the far edge of potential — then there is one single thing that he needs to add to his game. Sampras has it. Henman does not — as we saw in their titanic match at Wimbledon this year. And it is authority.

Beaten Rusedski overtaken as British No 1 by rival's advance to fourth round of US Open

Victory ranks with Henman's sweetest

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW YORK

IT WAS a big day for Tim Henman and he promptly celebrated by dismissing Michael Kohlmann in four sets to reach the fourth round of the US Open here yesterday. The occasion of his 24th birthday was further embellished by the fact that he had just replaced Greg Rusedski as the best of British.

Rusedski's five-set defeat by Jan Siemerink, of Holland, will see his world ranking drop to the low teens when the ladder is updated next week. Whatever Henman's ultimate fate at Flushing Meadows, he is bound to be ranked higher, thus leapfrogging Rusedski 12 months to the day that he was himself supplanted in the national pecking order.

The portents were in place for a champagne performance and Henman opened his match with rare effervescence. He set about Kohlmann as though bent on an early lunch. The No 2 Stadium Court marked the scene of his last two exits from the US Open, and Henman seemed determined to expunge the memory. As if to underline the point, he opened and closed the first set with aces to exacerbate the German's discomfort with his first glimpse of a big stage.

World ranked No 149, Kohlmann had played but a solitary match on the main tour before qualifying for this event. A succession of injuries have plagued him since he was the leading German 16-and-under player eight years ago. That prowess became evident in the second set, when Kohlmann led 4-1 and then served to level matters at 5-3, but when Henman responded to win the next four games, he appeared set for a routine afternoon.

What happened next should serve as a salient reminder. Henman promptly lost concentration, his foundering ground strokes reviving Kohlmann's spirits to the extent that he ran away with the third set. Henman's self-admonishment was both pertinent and clearly audible around the stadium: "Concentrate, for Christ's sake, focus."

Henman arrested his lapse at the start of the fourth set. Previously hesitant and exposed on the baseline, he returned to his aggressive instincts to triumph 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 in two hours 31 minutes. "He was moving unbelievably at the net," Kohlmann said. "I knew that if I didn't hit the line on my passing shots, I would have little chance."

Unlike his rivals Pete Sampras, Pat Rafter, Andre Agassi and Jonas Bjorkman, Henman expended too much energy against his journeyman opponent for comfort. Still, he remains relatively fresh for his match tomorrow with the winner between Mark Philippoussis and Lucas Arnold. A quarter-final place is at stake.

The bottom collapsed from Rusedski's barrel late on Saturday night when the No 6 seed, his resources stretched by successive five-set matches, finally gave out in another marathon against Siemerink. Surviving three match points in his first two matches only earned Rusedski a stay of execution. The guillotine thus fell on a player whose preparation for this tournament was far from ideal.

Rusedski's disappointment was heightened by the fact that this was a match he could and should have won. The fates that favoured him throughout last week suddenly reclaimed their debt as Rusedski served poorly and volleyed erratically. Furthermore, a series of foot faults triggered a running diatribe with the umpire, which served to fracture his concentration.

Even when Siemerink, world ranked No 21, regularly double-faulted at pivotal moments, Rusedski was unable to capitalise. "I put myself in a lot of difficulty by not serving well," Rusedski said. "I have had a very disappointing grand-slam season [two first-round and two third-round exits]. I just don't like to be mediocre."

Although he saved three further match points, the Briton converted but three of 18 break points within Siemerink's 4-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 triumph. The turning point came when Rusedski, ahead by two sets to one, was foot faulted on a second service at deuce and 1-1 in the fourth. He was promptly broken.

Exhaustion overcame the Briton in the deciding set, the legacy of a preparation compromised by the sprained ankle he suffered three months ago. In that respect, his misguided attempt to play on one leg at Wimbledon cannot have helped.

Rusedski's efforts to regroup start with an appearance for Britain against India later this month. After that, he has important rankings points to defend early in the Eurpoean indoor season.

"It will be a fight to the end of the year to finish in the top ten," Rusedski said before acknowlegding Henman's effort in supplanting him. "Tim deserves it. He had a great run at Wimbledon and has played well through the summer, but I will be back." The resiliance he showed in reaching the third round is evidence of that.



Henman delivers another winning forehand against Kohlmann at Flushing Meadows yesterday. Photograph: Don Emmert

Seles taken the distance as Po sees the light

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

IT IS all too quiet out there. As the middle Sunday of the US Open dawned, all but six of the 32 seeds, men and women, were still in business, leading to a nagging feeling that it is all about to go horribly wrong. Sure enough there have been a few scares along the way, but those who should have won have come up trumps while the rest have known their place and lost accordingly.

The nearest thing to a giantkiller in the women's draw comes in the 5ft 4in form of Kimberly Po. Reaching the fourth round for the first time in her career, she defeated the No 14 seed, Dominique van Roost, in her previous match, not that anyone noticed, and was setting her sights on Monica Seles for a shot at the quarter-finals.

Wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap, Po was travelling incognito to the Arthur Ashe Stadium. She looked like a club player, neat, tidy and anonymous, and altogether out of place on such a show court.

But that is how she feels about tennis in general. One of the brighter lights on the women's tour and a former UCLA student, she spent six months away from the game earlier this year recovering from surgery on her shoulder and came to the conclusion that tennis is not a real job for a grown-up with a brain.

Able to talk about things other than forehands and backhands, and it is alarming how rare that is among the players, Po is thinking seriously of retiring at the end of this year. Not that that stopped her from putting body and soul into her Open run.

She took her time to settle down. "I was thinking too much about who I was playing and where," she said. "You have to fight against the feeling that, because you're playing Monica Seles, you have to do more, hit better, hit lines, hit perfect shots. But you don't.

"I just tried to play within myself and not worry so much about who I'm playing." Once her nerves were under control, Po started to give Seles a rough ride. Although she is hitting the ball as hard as ever, Seles is not looking particularly sharp at the moment.

Overweight and not as fit as she was earlier this summer, she is not controlling the points and the rallies as in days of old and, once Po got her eye in, she had to work very hard to pull out the victory.

All looked to be well as Seles sat at a set and 4-1 up but proceeded to lose the next five games. Forced into a third set, she did not look happy.

Grunting louder and louder, always a sign that Seles is opening up the throttle and going for broke, she finally made the breakthrough in the fifth game, absolutely leathering a backhand return. Finally ahead, she was not going to give away such a precious lead again.



Seles: made to struggle

Next on the agenda is likely to be Martina Hingis, and Seles knows that she is going to have to be a lot more consistent and a lot more aggressive if she is to progress any further at Flushing Meadows. The two last met in August in Canada with Seles winning in three sets, but that was three weeks and several excess pounds ago. It will be a lot tougher this time.

ROWING: PINSENT ENSURES EASY PASSAGE TO SEMI-FINAL FOR BRITAIN'S FLAGSHIP CREW

Coxless four fight off late challenge

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

BRITAIN'S flagship coxless four cruised to a comfortable win in the first day of the world championships here yesterday. Norway and Egypt threw everything at the British in the first half — to no avail — before suffering the consequences.

The Americans mounted a second half challenge, but stroke man Matthew Pinsent, kept his men at a leisurely rate to cruise home in front and qualify for Thursday's semi-final. "We are a lot better than last year. We have more smoothness, we are longer, and more under control," Jürgen Grobler, the head coach, said.

Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay also progressed to Thursday's women's double sculls semi-final with a smooth and controlled race. Their win was the fastest of the three heats, faster not only at the finish but at every signal up the course. As a pointer, the Dutch 1998 World Cup champions Van Dishoeck and Van Nes, winners of the second fastest heat, were a full three seconds slower to halfway. It was a relief that the British doubles lack of racing practice this summer had not produced rustiness.

Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, World Cup champions but disappointing at Lucerne, produced a race of two halves. At 1,000 metres they were fourth and looking heavy. The pair then seemed to wake up, passing Russia and Romania and submitting Emma Robinson and Alison Corn, the Canadian world champions, to real pressure at the line. The British face a repechage tomorrow, but their confidence should be high.

It was a morale-boosting day for Britain's three scullers who all showed that they had moved up a notch since Lucerne. All finished second, although only first would have avoided tomorrow's repechages. Greg Searle, easing up before the line, followed home Rob Waddell, of New Zealand, in a time faster than the winners of the other three heats. No mean feat seeing the other winners were the Swiss Olympic champion, Xeno Muller, and the former world champions, Iztok Cop, of Slovenia, and Vaclav Chalupa, of the Czech Republic. Times can be deceptive but Searle's style and motivation seem to have returned.

Peter Haining, Britain's unbeatable lightweight from 1993 to 1995, was bettered by his old American rival, James Martinez, by a length, again in a very fast heat. Haining was taken by surprise by the American's spurt at 750 metres and never got back, stating wryly: "There are seven people for six places in the final. I'll make sure I am not the seventh." The same scenario applies to Guin Batten in the women's sculls who finished in second place behind Germany's multi-gold medal-winner, Katrin Rutschow. Batten has a good repechage draw for tomorrow.

The main disappointment of the day was a lacklustre performance by the men's lightweight eight. They were well beaten into second place by the United States, the only major crew in the event not bettered by the British this year, although Germany and Italy, both beaten by Britain at Lucerne, led home the other heat in a faster time, perhaps giving hope if Britain hit their previous form.

ROLAND WEIHRAUCH



Concerted effort: Drew Ginn and Michael McKay, of Australia, take the strain in the coxless pairs

EQUESTRIANISM: NEW ZEALANDERS DOMINATE HORSE TRIALS

Tait adds Burghley success to impressive list of honours

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, who had been on the verge of withdrawing Chesterfield from the Burghley Pedigree Chum Horse Trials after finishing a disappointing twelfth in the dressage, not only won the event with the Haglund Partnership's 12-year-old gelding but was also runner-up on his second horse, Aspyring, owned by the Kiwi Belles Syndicate.

"I'm chuffed to bits," Tait, 37, said after completing one of only four clear rounds in the showjumping phase yesterday. Only his compatriot, Mark Todd, who was first and second at Burghley in 1987, has performed a similar feat.

In a formidable line-up of New Zealanders, Andrew Nicholson finished third after a faultless round on David and Jane Tolley's Hinnegar. Britain's best performance came from Jancis Tulloch, who was fourth on Bally Free. Tulloch, 36, who had the fastest time across country, was lying third but dropped a place yesterday after incurring 15 faults.

Although Tait, who picked up £26,000 in prize-money, has won most of the sport's top honours — he is a former world champion and the Olympic, British Open and Scottish Open champion — this is his first win at Burghley.

Had it not been for the mayhem on Saturday's cross-country he might well have remained down the line. But the rain turned the speed and endurance phase into a survival course. Of the 56 who set out on the cross-country, 32 were eliminated or retired, including Mark Todd, with Stunning, and such seasoned partnerships as Victoria Sinnatt's Staks and Carolyne Ryan-Bell's Hooray Henry II.

Tait, drawn first, had the advantage of better going and, despite a near fall at Mark Phillips' influential new fence, the Podium Bounces, went into the lead and retained it throughout the long day. But the course had left its mark. "It was a funny feeling on Saturday night," Tait said. "It didn't feel at all uplifting because it had been such a miserable day."



Tait: double delight

Phillips, the course designer, who had been determined to maintain a true four-star track despite the weak field, was in contemplative mood afterwards. "The weather altered everything. I had not expected the steeplechase phase to take such a heavy toll on the horses," he said.

Twenty-three of the original 65 starters were left to contest the showjumping yesterday — in which the effect of the cross-country was quickly apparent. Six riders had 20 or more faults — including the British riders Ruth Friend on Ice Dancer II and Andrew Bennie on Wottabert. Poles tumbled in all directions to the monotonous accompaniment of a toddler in the front row of the stands who sang out "oh dear" as each fell.

Tait dropped to fourth place after hitting fence No 3 but he moved into the lead after Tulloch collected her 15 faults and Daniel Jocelyn, of New Zealand, incurred 20 faults on the eight-year-old Silence, dropping from third to fifth place.

Knowing he would still win on Aspyring if he had a calamity on Chesterfield, there was little pressure on Tait for his final round. But Chesterfield completed a faultless round and was greeted with tumultuous applause as he crossed the finish line.

A marriage made in heaven for United followers

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, on a deal that will prompt protests but should be a source of rejoicing at Old Trafford

Ten days ago, a small group of my colleagues had the misfortune to find themselves in a bar in the less than salubrious city of Lodz. They spent a few minutes chatting to Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, who was in Poland, like them, to see his team seal its admission to the Champions' League this year.

When Edwards and his entourage left, the journalists were immediately accosted by some of the club's supporters. The supporters were angry, not at anything that had been written about their heroes on the pitch, but because they had seen the journalists consorting with Edwards.

On that evening in Lodz, this group who, by virtue of being in Poland, must count among United's most devoted followers, poured out their disdain for Edwards; for the shabby way he tried to sell the club to Michael Knighton a decade ago and for the way they imagined he had betrayed them by failing to bring the biggest names to Old Trafford during the summer.

Yesterday, though, the deeply rooted conservatism that all honest football supporters recognise in themselves swept that disdain away in a moment of irrational panic caused by the fear of change. Suddenly news of BSkyB's proposed £575 million takeover of the club sent them scurrying back to the dubious safety of the devil you know. How dare Edwards leave them in the clutches of such a man as Rupert Murdoch, was the tenor of what they said.

And yet, whatever the wider objections to BSkyB owning the most powerful FA Carling Premiership club, whatever scheduling problems it might throw up in the future, whatever accusations of favouritism or manipulation it might spawn from other clubs who might be jealous of Old Trafford's ever-expanding profile, in football terms the news yesterday can mean only one thing: more power to Manchester United.

I spoke to a fervent Arsenal fan yesterday, a committed Chelsea supporter and a friend of mine who recently bought one of those Leeds shirts with "We 8 United" emblazoned on the back. They all spoke with one voice. All they could see was a black image of Alex Ferguson spitting banknotes at the world's best players and a United team strengthening its grip on the Premiership.

They had their concerns, of course, about money and business grabbing an ever-greater market share in the sport they love but their biggest fear was that BSkyB would snatch away one of their greatest sources of satisfaction in recent years: the fact that United constantly seem to miss out on the world-class talents.

With BSkyB in charge and desperate to maintain United as football's entertainment flagship, attractive football and charismatic figures will be de rigeur. Next time Marcelo Salas, Patrick Kluivert, Denilson, Zinedine Zidane, Alan Shearer, Michael Owen or Ronaldo becomes available, United supporters are unlikely to find themselves having to swallow the humiliation of being neatly sidestepped for a "big club" such as Barcelona, Internazionale, Juventus or Lazio.

When they realise the futility and hypocrisy of their plans for a demonstration against the sell-out before the home match with Charlton Athletic on Wednesday, United supporters may realise that this is the takeover they had always dreamt of. This is the equivalent of having a Massimo Moratti or a Gianni Agnelli at the helm, a controlling interest where money is no object, a group that will make Jack Walker look like a ten-penny benefactor.

Look, for instance, at what Murdoch's involvement has done for the Los Angeles Lakers franchise in the National Basketball Association. It helped to transform it from a team living meekly in the shadow of the great days of Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to one revitalised by the £70 million signing of one of the sport's biggest stars, Shaquille O'Neal, and the development of the league's equivalent of Michael Owen, Kobe Bryant.

That many will have misgivings about Rupert Murdoch's perceived hold on English sport is inevitable. Fears that it will fuel the process of polarisation under way in the Premiership as the big clubs get bigger, are also understandable.

But for United fans to rail against the takeover is like a group of lottery winners covering their ears when Camelot rings with the good news. It is for the rest of football to worry. United supporters should sit back and enjoy the ride.

FOOTBALL

McCarthy puts seal on new era

IRELAND 2
CROATIA 0
by Russel Kempson

AS THE Ireland supporters stood outside Rumm's Bar next to Lansdowne Road, conducting their celebrations on the kerbside, the team coach swept past. A huge roar went up from the drinkers in green until they swiftly realised that the bus was empty except for a few bemused passengers.

After a moment's hesitation and much laughter, the cheers continued. Anybody with even the most tenuous link to the team was worth a shout, worth congratulating, in the afterglow of new-found pride and belief. Ireland had beaten Croatia, the third best team in the world, and the Guinness already flowed freely. It would be a long night.

Victory means everything in football and if the display is impressive too, so much the better. Ireland deserved their triumph and were 2-0 ahead and calmly in control before Croatia lost Stanic and Jurcic, sent off within a minute of each other midway through the second half.

The object of their displeasure, for some obscure reason, was Staunton, the Liverpool defender. Stanic was booked for fouling him and then, soon after, took him out near the touchline. Red card. Jurcic did the same only seconds later, again in an area of no apparent danger, and was similarly dispatched.

Croatia had self-destructed, not unlike their volatile quarter-final exit against Germany during Euro 96, and the respect gained from reaching the World Cup semi-finals less than nine weeks ago had vanished in a trice. They will recover — group eight of the 2000 European championship qualifying series has many miles to travel — but it was not an auspicious start.

For Ireland, hope springs eternal. And perhaps, at last, it is tinged with hard fact, a genuine and now growing feeling that the exciting exploits of Jack Charlton can be emulated by Mick McCarthy, his successor as Ireland coach. McCarthy had predicted success for his young bucks against a Croatia side shorn of the talents of Bilic, Suker, Boksic, Vlaovic and Prosinecki.

Roy Keane, the newly appointed captain, led by example, always available in midfield and encouraging his team-mates at every turn, while Kinsella provided further evidence that Charlton Athletic, his club, have a better pedigree — collectively and individually — than most might think. His shot against the crossbar, shortly before Stanic and Jurcic departed, merited greater reward.

McCarthy, though expressing his delight, could not resist a subtle dig at his detractors. "It was a good start," he said, "but was it due to Roy Keane or was it down to the absence of Suker, Boksic, etc? I suppose it depends on what sort of slant you want to put on it.

"I said we'd win. Whether it was bravado, macho nonsense or belief, you decide, but it was a relief to have done so. I took over in February 1996 but only now is it a new era. My cards were on the table for this one. It was my squad, my team . . . and we won."

After four minutes, Irwin plunged between Jurcic and Jarni, fell to ground and, subsequently, converted the penalty. Whether such good fortune can be expected in Belgrade, where Ireland play Yugoslavia next month, is debatable. Eleven minutes later Roy Keane guided in McAteer's deflected drive from Staunton's corner.

"Ireland must be one of the big favourites to qualify," Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach, said. "I was not surprised by their strength." New era, new dawn or whatever, the Ireland team — McCarthy's team — made a big impression. Not least in Rumm's Bar.

IRELAND (4-4-2): S Given (Newcastle United) — D Irwin (Manchester United), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), P Babb (Liverpool), S Staunton (Liverpool) — J McAteer (Liverpool), Roy Keane (Manchester United), M Kinsella (Charlton Athletic), D Duff (Blackburn Rovers, sub J Kennna, Blackburn Rovers, 46min) — Robbie Keane (Wolverhampton Wanderers, sub L Carsley, Derby County, 62), K O'Neill (Norwich City, sub A Cascarino, AS Nancy, 9)
CROATIA (3-5-2): D Ladic (Croatia Zagreb) — Z Soldo (VfB Stuttgart, sub M Tokic, Croatia Zagreb, 77), I Stimac (Derby County), D Simic (Croatia Zagreb) — I Tudor (Juventus, sub P Kopen, Osijek, 62), R Jurcic, (Croatia Zagreb), Z Boban (AC Milan), A Asanovic (Panathinaikos), R Jarni (Real Madrid) — M Stanic (Parma), S Maric (Croatia Zagreb, sub, I Pamic, Hansa Rostock, 46)
Referee: V M Melo Pereira (Portugal)

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT



Coleman, the Wales defender, appreciates the consequences of his error while the Italians celebrate the crucial first goal at Anfield on Saturday

Giggs unable to bridge the class divide

WALES 0
ITALY 2
by Rob Hughes

ANFIELD served Wales on Saturday while the National Stadium in Cardiff is rebuilt, and more than 23,000 people, stirringly led by the Rhos Orpheus Choir, almost transformed Liverpool into the land of their fathers for this European championship qualifying match.

In response, the players gave their all. Ryan Giggs moved as gracefully as Roberto Baggio, but Welsh hwyl succumbed to a dreadful error, to a cruel stroke of misfortune, to an exquisite final goal, and to the inevitable conclusion that one world-class player is no match for half a team of them.

The start of Dino Zoff's reign as the Italy coach, and the continuing struggle of Bobby Gould to stretch slender resources, scarcely needed explanations. The media demands them, nevertheless, even when, as on Saturday, they were conducted by searchlights in a car park surrounded by fire engines and police horses. A shrill siren, a false alarm, had rapidly cleared the dressing-rooms and the stands.

Zoff, as solid and defiant as when he stood in the Italy goal for 112 caps, was interrogated on his selections. Why start with Alessandro Del Piero when Roberto Baggio is obviously in sharper form? Why bring back Demetrio Albertini when no one at AC Milan has confidence and Luigi Di Biagio has such a powerful claim? Why expose Gianluca Pessotto to Giggs's pace when Michele Serena is a swifter alternative?

Zoff said that he chose those who fitted his ideas and whose training ground performance, in the absence of any competitive games in Serie A until the coming weekend, impressed him. He had achieved the result, his Azzurri had quelled the Welsh fighting spirit, he was satisfied.

Gould, of course, was less so. The banners are out for his resignation, partly because he is an Englishman in Wales, partly because his decisions seem illogical, partly because he does not have the Joneses, the Allchurchs, the Charleses or more of the likes of Giggs to restore halcyon days.

While Zoff could eschew the multimillion-pound Italian forwards in England, deeming the FA Carling Premiership an unfit playground for international development, Gould has not even the luxury of that level. He had to fashion a three-man defence of Kit Symons and Chris Coleman, of Fulham, with Adrian Williams, who is failing to get a game with Wolverhampton Wanderers as sweeper.

They coped remarkably well. Coleman matched force with force, guile with determination while marking Christian Vieiri, Lazio's £19 million centre forward. But, in the eighteenth minute, concentration deserted Coleman, a Nationwide League second division defender.

Unaccountably, he got in Paul Jones the goalkeeper's way to an innocuous through ball; unthinkingly he mis-hit it straight to Diego Fuser, and inconsolably he despaired when Fuser dispatched the ball into the net.

Giggs deserved to spare Coleman's blushes just before half-time, but a supremely struck left-foot free kick rebounded off the crossbar. And, for all Nathan Blake's courageous running, for all the magic of Giggs, for all that Gary Speed tackled and John Robinson, Darren Barnard and Andy Johnson persevered, there was no undoing the earlier mishap.

It would come down to substitutions. Gould had tried to make a point about respecting the game, respecting the opponent, when he dropped Robbie Savage, the tigerish Leicester City midfield player, from the squad after a television interview during which Savage threw away a replica shirt of Italy's revered (but absent, injured) captain, Paolo Maldini. Possibly Gould has outmoded values, for he was persuaded that banning Savage was an over-reaction.

The Leicester player was restored to the squad, and his youth and vigour as a late substitute for the faded Mark Hughes perhaps came too late. For, by then, Roberto Baggio was on the pitch.

With two passes, Baggio transcended the touch and vision of others, and the first of those inspired Vieiri to turn extravagantly in the Wales goal area and shoot the conclusive second goal with almost nonchalant finality.

Afterwards, as the sirens wailed, Zoff stood his ground between the critics and the backslappers, while Gould had only the critics. In the real world, where nationality is not yet for sale to the highest bidder, a coach remains no better than the players at his disposal.

WALES (3-5-2): P Jones (Southampton) — K Symons (Fulham), A Williams (Wolverhampton Wanderers), C Coleman (Fulham) — J Robinson (Charlton Athletic), A Johnson (Nottingham Forest), M Hughes (Southampton, sub R Savage, Leicester City, 80min), G Speed (Newcastle United), D Barnard (Barnsley) — R Giggs (Manchester United), N Blake (Bolton Wanderers, sub D Saunders, Sheffield United, 88)
ITALY (4-4-2): A Peruzzi (Juventus) — C Panucci (Real Madrid), F Cannavaro (Parma), M Iuliano (Juventus), G Pessotto (Juventus) — D Fuser (Parma), D Baggio (Parma), D Albertini (AC Milan, sub L Di Biagio, Roma, 68), E Di Francesco (Roma, sub M Serena, Atlético Madrid, 62) — C Vieiri (Lazio), A Del Piero (Juventus, sub R Baggio, Internazionale, 74)
Referee: T Haugе (Norway)

Northern Ireland take same old path

TURKEY 3
NORTHERN IRELAND 0
by George Caulfield

FOUR hours of incessant singing, dancing and drumming had gone some way to dimming the senses and hundreds of happy car horns were still blaring loudly outside at the Ali Sami Yen stadium, but the raised, gruff tones of Lawrie McMenemy were no less audible through the walls of the subterranean dressing-room. Northern Irish ears were burning.

If the actual words could not be discerned, their meaning was, because for all the brave and commendable slogans about new eras that had preceded it, there was something sadly familiar about the manner of their defeat.

The matter of the projectiles thrown at Keith Gillespie and George O'Boyle, the St Johnstone player, before kick-off, was another issue. "We have made a strong protest to Uefa," Jim Boyce, the Irish FA president, said. The timing of what followed was particularly harsh. As Gillespie began a trademark spurt across the halfway line, the ardour of the home fans inside Galatasaray's ground had been dampened. Mert Korkmaz promptly snaffled up possession and Oktay Derelioglu strode on to a long ball before chipping Alan Fettis, the goalkeeper.

The second goal was no less disastrous, coming some four minutes after the interval as Tayfur Havutcu, of Besiktas, nonchalantly converted his debut goal.

What McMenemy's side were truly lacking could be best summed up by Turkey's decisive third goal. Oktay, the Besiktas striker, dribbled at full tilt until checking his run, turning past Colin Hill and placing the ball into the bottom corner. It his eighth goal in nine international matches.

In five of their past seven competitive matches, Northern Ireland have not managed a single goal and they never came close in Istanbul.

TURKEY (3-5-2): R Rustu — A Sallet, K Mert, O Alpay — B Okan (sub: E Arif, 87min), Y Sergen, H Tayfur, K Tugay (sub: C Oguz, 75), E Abdullah — D Oktay (sub: M Hami, 79), S Hakan
NORTHERN IRELAND (4-4-2): A Fettis — A Hughes, C Hill, S Morrow, K Horlock — K Gillespie (sub: J Whitley, 73), P Mulryne, N Lennon, K Rowland (sub: J Dunn, 45) — M Hughes, I Dowie
Referee: R Wojcik (Poland)

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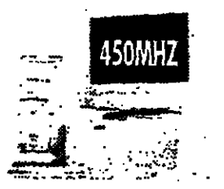
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Sweden's victory in European championship opener increases pressure on England coach

Defeat adds to doubts over Hoddle

SWEDEN 2
ENGLAND 1
by Matt Dickinson



Ince watches as Shearer's free kick puts England into an early lead against Sweden in Stockholm. Photograph: Marc Aspland

THE apposite sight of a banana skin discarded amid the debris of jockstraps and crimson-stained bandages on the dressing-room floor brought back memories of a previous England manager's embarrassment in Stockholm. "Swedes 2, Turnips 1" went the headline, and the subsequent trial by fruit and veg heralded the departure of Graham Taylor. It may not be long before Glenn Hoddle also receives the full compost treatment.

Such ridicule can be dismissed by an England coach as long as he is winning games, and those who would hound Hoddle out of the job know that his hide remains thicker than an elephant's. The only thing he has in common with "Turnip" Taylor is the scoreline from their European championship qualifying match on Saturday.

When his team loses, though, in a way that raises serious questions about his tactical adaptability and his efficiency in plucking the best from his players, Hoddle cannot brush the inquisition aside as if it was some perceived triviality over faith-healing or a World Cup diary. The painful, unavoidable truth is that England were made to look distinctly second-rate by a well-organised, dynamic but hardly fearsome Sweden side.

Hoddle argued vehemently that there was nothing wrong with the rehearsals, selection or shape of the team. No change there, then. "The team we put out was a very strong and balanced one, as was proved in the opening 20 minutes," he said.

Correct up to a point, because it is almost impossible to criticise his chosen XI, and there is no doubt that he was let down by some unusually abject individual performances. Of the back line, only the brave Sol Campbell could be absolved. Tony Adams appeared utterly bemused. As the Swedes poured forward, he dashed around like a man whose roof has sprung six leaks but has only one bucket to catch the flow.

The sight of Gareth Southgate hitting a pass straight off his shin into touch was the low point of a display that did not have a single high, and Gary Neville will surely regain his shirt. Graeme Le Saux, undermined by Hoddle's criticism after the defeat by Romania, appears to be lacking in confidence.

How much those players were ill at ease even before kick-off can only be guessed at, but where Hoddle must find better answers than he managed on Saturday night is whether he was out-thought by a decisive tactical change.

Noticing that England were enjoying extra width through Anderton and Le Saux, Tommy Soderberg, the Sweden coach, pushed Andreas Andersson forward from right midfield into a 4-3-3 formation. Suddenly, England's wing backs were pressed deep into a back five and the midfield could not resist a stream of powerful surges. As the pressure mounted, the passing, according to Hoddle, "went haywire".

Anderton's injury, shortly before half-time, was a huge blow, and Paul Ince's dismissal effectively ended England's challenge. It did, though, allow the switch to a back four that some players are understood to prefer.

Not even Alan Shearer and Michael Owen were exempt from criticism, with Hoddle appearing to blame the Liverpool teenager for ignoring instructions to track back. "We needed the strikers to put more pressure on Schwarz," he said. "We got messages from the bench, but for whatever reasons it didn't happen." Owen's silly booking, for a reckless tackle as early as the sixth minute, appeared to have much to do with it.

Instead, England allowed the pace to be dictated by Schwarz, the intimidating Mjallby and particularly the trickery of Ljungberg, who proved why Barcelona and Liverpool have been watching him. Their quick-passing and pressing game was the plan of Soderberg, who was correct in believing England's defence has a tendency to lie too deep, and they did not take long to recover from the shock of conceding Shearer's free kick after 77 seconds.

Andersson equalised on the half-hour, when Adams deflected the ball over Seaman. The goalkeeper might have done better, and he was certainly slow to react two minutes later when a cross rebounded off Scholes's thigh and Mjallby reacted first with a header. England might have escaped with a draw in the dying minutes when Nilsson admitted to catching Shearer's leg in the penalty area. The England captain had a case but, overall, justice had been done. "I won't use that as an excuse," he said and, one hopes, nor will Hoddle.

SWEDEN (4-4-2): M Hedman (Coventry City) — R Nilsson (Coventry City), P Andersson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), J Björklund (Valencia), P Kaamark (Leicester City; sub: T Lucic, IFK Gothenburg, 82min) — A Andersson (Newcastle United, sub: O Andersson, Malmo, 90), S Schwarz (Valencia), T Mjallby (AIK, Stockholm), F Ljungberg (Halmstads BK) — H Larsson (Celtic), J Pettersson (Borussia Mönchengladbach)

ENGLAND (3-5-2): D Seaman (Arsenal) — G Southgate (Aston Villa), A Adams (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur; sub: P Merson, Middlesbrough, 75) — D Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur; sub: R Lee, Newcastle United, 42), J Redknapp (Liverpool), P Ince (Liverpool), P Scholes (Manchester United; sub: E Sheringham, Manchester United, 86), G Le Saux (Chelsea) — M Owen (Liverpool), A Shearer (Newcastle United)

Referee: P Collins (Italy)

Reduced from superstars to nobodies

Lynne Truss seeks a psychic explanation for a dismal performance in Stockholm

Well, how about that then? Mashed by Swedes. What a curious situation for the England team. They were greeted like superstars by an adoring Swedish press on Thursday; Michael Owen inspiring words such as *tumultartade* and *superstjarnorna* (easy for them to say). And then, on Saturday, they were rudely trounced and made to look like nobodies.

"He knows who I am," David Seaman was quoted as saying in blunt northern tones of his Swedish goalkeeping counterpart. It's the sort of thing you say with your legs astride and your arms akimbo, your hair streaming behind you in the breeze. But on Saturday afternoon, the body language told another story for England's famous Mr Safe-Hands. Falling back, face contorted in dismay, over-reaching, scuttling on all fours — well. "Remind me who you are, again?" should have been the song of the Swedish fans.

As history will record, of course, England had a blinding first minute. For the first time in about two years, the Shearer Wonderland was reopened for visitors and we walked about in it with rosy cheeks and big smiles. For about 20 minutes more, indeed, England comfortably dominated the match. And then, for whatever reason, the tables were turned and England became rubbish. What happened? In football terms, it was simple. A youthful Sweden team surpassed themselves and simply, gloriously outplayed us. This was the World Cup they never had: four years in the wilderness had made appetites keen.

But there is an alternative explanation, which I feel I ought to mention. Eileen Drewery got complacent, and popped out for last-minute weekend shopping.

You can see how it would happen. You can hardly blame the woman. She thought England were in good nick. The Swedes had written headlines such as "*Vi behover ett mirakel*" (We need a miracle); they had dubbed Michael Owen "the 18-year-old Sweden fears most". So, 15 minutes into the game, she made a snap judgment that she wouldn't be missed for half an hour, and made a lightning raid on Marks.

It was a bad call, as we say in the sports biz. For Eileen got stuck in a traffic jam and returned home just in time to see Paul Ince sent off. "Oh blimmineck," she exclaimed. Rushing to the telly, she saw evidence of a horrified England team that looked as if it had been collectively run over, and a scoreline so precisely reminiscent of the famous "Swedes 2 Turnips 1" that she could only sit drop-jawed over her bags of fresh English strawberries, couscous and chargrilled veg. "What have I done?" she moaned (she didn't even like couscous). "Oh Glenn, what on earth have I done?"

Looking at the statistics in the Swedish Sunday papers, even a hopeless monolinguist was obliged to concur with their grim findings. In the match on Saturday, Sweden had the majority of the *bollinnehav*; had slightly less *frisparkar* (so much for that, whatever it is); but more than their fair share of the *hornor* and the *skott* (what a life). If there was a column for flattering to deceive your hoity-toity visitors, they got the majority of that, too.

The point is, though, Sweden played extremely well — in a game which would always be won by sheer physical bulldozering of the opposition. It was knock-em-down stuff, like Sumo wrestling with complications, and it turned out to suit the slender Swedes surprisingly well. They were (dare I say it?) tasty. "Kom igen, Sverige!" I said, involuntarily. Formerly, I had not been excited about Swedish football — basing my ideas unfairly, perhaps, on Andreas Andersson's dreadful performances at Newcastle, where he not only looks like a girlie but strikes randomly at goal, as if playing in a blindfold.

So Sweden were a bit of a shock. No sooner had Mrs Drewery applied her handbrake and locked her door in the thirtieth minute than a goalmouth scuffle found our very own Andreas Andersson beating both Seaman and Adams for Sweden's equalising first goal. As the crowd in the Rasunda stadium went wild, a shiver travelled north up Mrs D's spine, and she stopped in her tracks. A cold wind from somewhere; doubtless the first evening chill of autumn. Two minutes later, as she rifled through the yoghurt section for bio fat-free gooseberry, Johan Mjallby saw the ball bounce off Paul Scholes, and acted quickly to effect Sweden's excellent second goal. Again, the good lady frowned and paused, but shrugged it off, blaming the icy blast on the sudden opening of a nearby cold-cabinet.



'A youthful Sweden surpassed themselves'

I don't think I've ever seen England more rattled than on Saturday. When Sweden started to suss their game and beat them, their disarray was hilarious. Headless chickens are by comparison quite organised.

To Glenn Hoddle's credit, he did not invoke disasters or famines after the match. In his notorious book, he finds it handy on occasion (i.e. when things have gone disastrously wrong) to explain that football is surely less important than life and death. But on Saturday, what could he say? Only that we had lost the reins but must bounce back. We must put our aggressive heads on and take it on the chin. Previously the team had their qualifying heads on, you see. Big mistake, head-wise, apparently.

Meanwhile a woman in England masticated her couscous with a thoughtful expression. Was sole psychic responsibility for a nation's football team just more than a lone woman rightly ought to bear? She was honestly beginning to think so.

Clemente in hot water after defeat

JAVIER CLEMENTE, the Spain coach, faced a renewed chorus of calls to resign yesterday after his side suffered a humiliating 3-2 defeat against a Cyprus team made up mostly of bank clerks and electricians.

Already in hot water over Spain's dismal performance in the World Cup, where they failed to get past the first stage, Clemente insisted after the match on Saturday that he would not step down. "Resign? Absolutely not. I have a lot of confidence in myself," he said at a raucous post-game press conference.

France, the world champions, scraped a 1-1 draw away to Iceland in their European championship group four qualifying match on Saturday. The French needed an equaliser from Christophe Dugarry, their striker, to secure a valuable point after a blunder by Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, let in Rikhardur Dadason for Iceland's opening goal.

Point gives Brown small comfort

LITHUANIA 0
SCOTLAND 0
by Kevin McCarra

PRE-EMINENCE has rarely been so nondescript. Scotland were the only one of the four British football nations to avoid defeat on Saturday, but, as performances go, a goalless draw in Lithuania was more of a scruffy knoll than a peak. The team had not reached the heights that would serve as a vantage point to let them look out with hope over the years ahead.

The result, in fact, gave rise to a strong but illogical feeling of foreboding. That mood of depression was well-armoured and commonsense was mere grapeshot that bounced off it. In practice, the outcome in Vilnius may not have been damaging and news came crowding in that ought to have made Scotland grateful for their result.

England, Wales and Northern Ireland had all lost their opening matches in the qualifying groups for the European Championship. France, the world champions, had been held to a 1-1 draw in Iceland. Spain had been beaten by Cyprus. All the same, it was futile to invite Scotland to count blessings after the wretchedness of their own match.

Victory for Craig Brown's side was not just out of reach; the possibility had not even accompanied them onto the bumpy, disobliging field of the Zalgiris stadium. There were few chances. Early in the afternoon, Stauce, the Lithuania goalkeeper, touched over an Elliott header that had posed little problem. Late in the game, McCoist was thwarted by the defence as he tried to convert a cut-back from Barry Ferguson, the young Rangers midfield player who made his international debut as a substitute.

The match could have been won by Lithuania, who were themselves a poor side. Leighton made several saves for Scotland, the best of them coming when he dived low to his right to turn away a header by Jankauskas in the 22nd minute. The visitors contributed only some starchy defending to the proceedings. Whenever they attempted to find creativity, Scotland drew a mental blank. In exoneration of his forwards, Brown was candid about the deficiencies. "Lithuania didn't really threaten," he said, "but then neither did we. We didn't get any supply to our attack. Given the service, Ronaldo himself could not have had a good game for us." Participation in this dismal game would probably have caused a relapse in the mental health of the stress-ridden Brazil star.

Inspection of the pitch was enough to make a footballer gloomy. The surface was too unreliable for Collins and Lambert, the partnership in central midfield, to succeed in finding one another with deft passes.

By the interval, Brown was recommending that Scotland settle for knocking the ball forward and then fighting for possession downfield. The side, though, did not advance in sufficient numbers. The inert nature of the team was disquieting. Troubled by the awkward bobbles, Scotland needed to adopt a simplified style and escape the congestion by making use of the full width of the pitch, but there was never any impetus on the flanks. The decision by Brown to use Calderwood and Dailly as his wing backs was shown to be mistaken. Although Calderwood, 33, is an excellent defender for Scotland, he is not cut out to make swashbuckling runs and hardly ever pressed much beyond the halfway line.

Dailly, with his pace and stamina, is equipped for the task, but continues to be hobbled by his right-footedness when asked to carry the action forward on the left. His difficulties with the role remain just as apparent as they were at the World Cup finals.

Upon reaching a position where he might be able to cross, Dailly usually turns back onto his preferred foot to deliver it. The angle then favours the defenders. On Friday, Brown tried to justify Dailly's selection in the position by observing that many good left backs have been right-footed.

In Scotland's system, however, Dailly is not a traditional left back. There is no winger ahead of him to whom he can pass. Brown appreciates the solidity of a team packed with experienced players, but he also knows that change is now a necessity.

LITHUANIA (3-4-1-2): G Stauce (Duisburg) — A Skerla (PSV Eindhoven), V Baltusnikas (Zalgiris Vilnius), T Zvirgzdauskas (KP Polonia) — A Skarbalius (Brondby), G Suzgda (Rot-Weiss Erfurt; sub: D Butkus, Baltika Kaliningrad, 61min), R Zutautus (Alania Vladikavkaz), D Semberas (Dinamo Moscow) — A Preikšaitis (MOKS Stormil) — E Jankauskas (Club Brugge), G Mikuckenas (KP Polonia; sub: V Slekys, FC Wil, 90)

SCOTLAND (3-4-1-2): J Leighton (Aberdeen) — M Elliott (Leicester City), C Hendry (Rangers), T Boyd (Celtic) — C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur; sub: C Davidson, Blackburn Rovers, 71), P Lambert (Celtic), J Collins (Everton), C Dailly (Blackburn Rovers) — D Jackson (Celtic; sub: B Ferguson, Rangers, 56) — A McCoist (Kilmarnock; sub: N McCann, Heart of Midlothian, 83), K Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers).

Referee: C Zotta (Romania).

Tottenham's timing found wanting

By Russell Kempson

CHRISTIAN GROSS'S departure from Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday afternoon, in the shadow of the European championship qualifying matches, only highlighted the tenuous grasp on reality at White Hart Lane. Such a futile attempt at subterfuge, in the hope that the timing of the announcement would attract minimum press coverage, illustrated how far the club has fallen.

Yesterday, Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, again stretched the bounds of credibility to its outer limits. He claimed that Gross's exit — less than ten months after he had succeeded Gerry Francis — was more due to outside pressures than the fact that the head coach had lost the respect of the players and supporters. And, perhaps, the chairman, too.

"Christian's departure is for internal reasons," Sugar said. "We were faced with an untenable situation that was created by the media. We, the board, felt that Christian, no matter how professional or good he is, has been destroyed by the media. It is as simple as that."

In a bizarre baring of souls, Sugar was accompanied by Gross — the hangman sitting alongside his victim — at Spurs Lodge, the club's training ground in Chigwell, Essex. "I didn't go, I had to go," Gross said, dismissing reports that he had resigned. "There are different reasons, but I am not the person to say why.

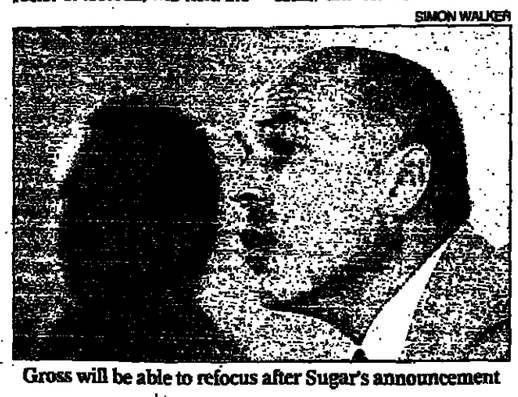
"I am not angry, I am disappointed, but I am now looking forward. I have been very successful in my managerial career up to now and this is the first time that results have not gone well for me. I have to deal with this in a positive way and I will do so."

Sugar does not appear to have found a replacement. David Pleat, Tottenham's director of football, will hold the fort and Sugar has asked him to continue to pursue the possible purchases of Tim Sherwood and Chris Sutton, of Blackburn Rovers, for a combined fee of £14 million.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach and former Tottenham player, would prove a popular choice among the fans and, perhaps significantly, he did little to confirm his international future in the wake of the 2-1 defeat against Sweden in Stockholm on Saturday.

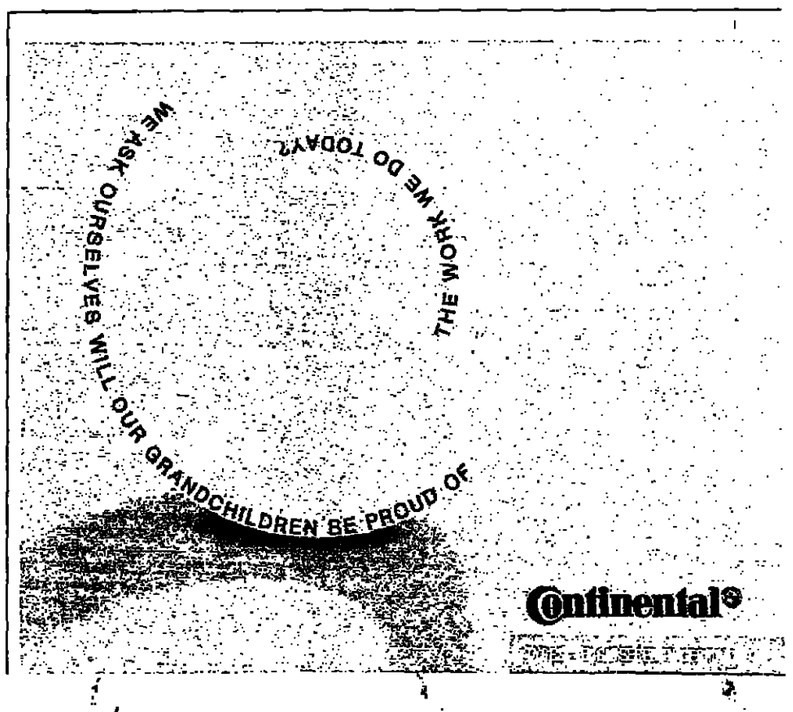
Johan Cruyff, Jupp Heynckes and Joe Kinnear are other credible contenders, more so than Jürgen Klinsmann, , who has no coaching credentials. "We need a big name to galvanise the club," Joff Wild, of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association, said. "It's probably the last chance for Sugar to get it right."

Enter George Graham, the Leeds United and former Arsenal manager. In the past, when asked about the possibility of managing Tottenham, he said: "Why not?" In the confused state that Tottenham finds itself, why not indeed.



Gross will be able to refocus after Sugar's announcement

SIMON WALKER



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCHES

GROUP ONE

BELARUS (0) 0 DENMARK (0) 0
35,000

WALES (0) 0 ITALY (1) 2
23,160 Fuser 19, Vieri 76

Wales: P Jones, J Robinson, D Barnard, K Symons, A Johnson, G Speed, N Blake (sub: D Saunders, 64min), M Hughes (sub: R Savage, 80), R Giggs, A Williams, C Coleman

Italy: A Peruzzi, C Panucci, G Pessotto, D Baggio, F Cannavaro, M Iuliano, D Fuser, D Albertini (sub: L Di Biagio, 66), C Vieri, A Del Piero (sub: R Baggio, 73), E Di Francesco (sub: M Serena, 85)

Referee: T Hauge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Belarus	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP TWO

GEORGIA (0) 1 ALBANIA (0) 0
Arveladze 65 35,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
*Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albania	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

* Does not include last night's matches

GROUP THREE

FINLAND (2) 3 MOLDOVA (2) 2
Kolkka 8, Johansson 44, Paatelainen 62; Oprea 10, 11; 18,716

TURKEY (1) 3 N IRELAND (0) 0
Okay 18, 58; Tayfun 49 (pen); 26,500

Turkey: R Rustu, A Saffet, K Mert, O Alpay, R Okan (sub: E Anil, 87min), Y Sergen, H Tayfur, K Tugay (sub: C Oguz, 75), E Abdullah, D Okay (sub: M Hami, 79), S Hakan

Northern Ireland: A Fettis, A Hughes, C Hill, S Morrow, K Horlock, K Gillespie (sub: J Whitley, 73), P Mulryne, N Lennon, K Rowland (sub: J Quinn, 45), M Hughes, I Dowie.

Referee: R Wojcik

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Finland	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moldova	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
N Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP FOUR

ARMENIA (1) 3 ANDORRA (0) 1
Avalyan 40, Yesayan 71, 90; Lucendo 86 (pen); 8,000

ICELAND (1) 1 FRANCE (1) 1
Dadason 33; Dugarry 36; 10,500

UKRAINE (2) 3 RUSSIA (0) 2
Popov 14, Skachenko 34, Rebrov 74 (pen); Varshnov 67, Onopko 87; 18,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armenia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Ukraine	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
France	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Iceland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Russia	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Andorra	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

FINAL COUNTDOWN

Sixteen nations will qualify to take part in the European Championship finals in 2000. The joint-hosts, Holland and Belgium, are guaranteed places but the holders, Germany, are not. Forty-nine teams are involved in the qualifying competition, from which the nine group winners will qualify automatically as will the second-placed team with the best group record. The last places go to the winners of four two-legged play-off matches which will be held between the eight other countries that finish as group runners-up. The finals will take place between June 16 to July 2, 2000.

GROUP FIVE

SWEDEN (2) 2 ENGLAND (1) 1
Andersson 30, Mjallby 32; Shearer 2; 35,000
Sent off: P Ince (England) 67

Sweden: M Hedman, R Nilsson, P Andersson, J Bjorklund, P Kamark (sub: T Lucic, 83min), S Schwarz, A Andersson (sub: D Andersson, 90min), T Mjallby, F Ljungberg, H Larsson, J Petterson

England: D Seaman, S Campbell (sub: P Merson, 75min), G Le Saux, P Ince, A Adams, G Southgate, D Anderton (sub: R Lee, 43min), J Redknapp, A Shearer, M Owen, P Scholes (sub: T Sheringham, 87min).

Referee: P Collina.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
*Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

* Does not include last night's match

GROUP SIX

AUSTRIA (1) 1 ISRAEL (0) 1
Reinmayr 7; Nimny 68 (pen); 20,000

CYPRUS (1) 3 SPAIN (0) 2
Engomitis 44, Gogic 48, Spoljaric 77; Raul 72, Morientes 85; 3,500

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cyprus	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Austria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Israel	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

GROUP SEVEN

SLOVAKIA (3) 3 AZERBAIJAN (0) 0
Fabus 17, Moravcik 40, Dubovsky 26 (pen); 3,243

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	1	1	0	0	7	0	3
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
*Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

* Does not include last night's match

GROUP EIGHT

IRELAND (2) 2 CROATIA (0) 0
Irwin 4 (pen), Keane 15; 34,000
Sent off: K Jurcic (Croatia) 72, M Stanic (Croatia) 70

Republic of Ireland: S Given, D Irwin, S Staunton, P Babb, K Cunningham, Roy Keane, J McAteer, M Kinsella, K O'Neill (sub: A Cascarino, 8min), Robbie Keane (sub: L Carsley, 62min), D Duff (sub: J Kenna, 46min)

Croatia: D Ladic, D Simic, I Stimac, A Asanovic, S Maric, Z Boban, M Stanic, Z Soldo (sub: M Tokic, 77min), K Jurcic, I Tudor (sub: P Krpan, 65min), R Jarni

Referee: V Mello-Pereira.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
*FYR Macedonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

* Does not include last night's match

GROUP NINE

BOSNIA-HG (0) 1 ESTONIA (1) 1
Barbarez 75; Hibic 28 (og); 21,000

LITHUANIA (0) 0 SCOTLAND (0) 0
4,000

Lithuania: Stauce, Seguda (sub: Buitkus, 67min), Semberas, R Zutautas, Baltes, Zvingilauskas, Mikulenas (sub: Slekys, 90min), Fogda, Preiksaitis, Skarbalius, Jankauskas.

Scotland: Leighton, Elliott, Boyd, Calderwood (sub: Davidson, 70min), Hendry, Dailly, Gallacher, Lambert, McCoist (sub: McCann, 82min), Jackson (sub: Ferguson, 56min), Collins.

Referee: C Zotta.

Yesterday

FAROE ISLANDS (0) 0 CZ REPUBLIC (0) 1
Smicer 84; 2,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estonia	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Bosnia-Herz	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Czech Rep	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lithuania	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Faroe Isl	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group 1: Belarus 0 Denmark 2, Wales 1 Italy 2. Group 2: Georgia 0 Albania 1. Group 3: Turkey 2 N Ireland 0. Group 4: Ukraine 1 Russia 0; Iceland 0 France 2. Group 5: Sweden 0 England 2. Group 6: Austria 0 Israel 1; Cyprus 1 Spain 3. Group 8: Ireland 2 Croatia 2. Group 9: Lithuania 0 Scotland 0

OVERSEAS

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Germinal Ekeren 1 St Truiden 0; Excelsior Mouscron 2 Harelbeke 2; Westerlo 6 Anderlecht 0; Beveren 1 Lokeren 2; AA Gent 2 Eendracht Aalst 2; Kortrijk 2 Oostende 0; Kortrijk 2 Ostend 0

DUTCH LEAGUE: Graafschap Doetinchem 2 RKC Waalwijk 2; Sparta Rotterdam 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 1.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	7	+4
2 A Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	7	+3
3 Nottm F	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	6	+1
4 Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	+5
5 Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	+2
6 Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	+1
7 Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	+1
8 West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	+1
9 Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	4	+1
10 Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
11 Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
12 Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	3	+1
13 Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	0
14 Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	3	-4
15 Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
16 Middlesbro	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	-2
17 Newcastle	3	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	2	-3
18 Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	-4
19 Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	-3
20 Southmptn	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	5	0	-7

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 BURY (0) 0
Adebola 20; 15,955
Sent off: A Woodward (Bury) 59

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 0
Allison 88; 12,192

STOCKPORT (0) 2 GRIMSBY (0) 0
Angell 78, 90; 6,199

SWINDON (3) 3 BRISTOL CITY (0) 2
Walters 2 (pen), Hoah 5, Onuora 8; Akinbiyi 62, Bell 75 (pen); 8,537
Sent off: R Holbert (Swindon) 90, S Davis (Swindon) 75

POSTPONED: QPR v Barnsley; Watford v Norwich

POOLS VERDICT: QPR v Barnsley (HT no score draw, FT away win); Watford v Norwich (HT home win, FT home win)

Yesterday

OXFORD UTD (2) 3 PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
March 21, Windass 24 (pen), 74; 6,626
Sent off: R Petrick (Portsmouth) 34

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Gls
1 Sunderland	5	3	0	0	10	1	1	1	0	3	1	13	(13)
2 Wolvrhmptn	5	2	1	0	5	2	2	0	0	4	0	13	(9)
3 Birmingham	6	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	5	2	13	(9)
4 Bury	6	3	0	0	5	0	0	2	1	0	1	11	(5)
5 West Brom	5	2	0	0	6	1	1	1	1	6	7	10	(12)
6 Huddersfld	6	2	1	0	6	4	1	0	2	2	3	10	(8)
7 Norwich	4	2	0	0	6	3	1	0	1	2	2	9	(8)
8 Stockport	6	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	0	5	4	9	(8)
9 Watford	5	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	7	6	9	(8)
10 Grimsby	6	2	1	0	6	1	0	1	2	0	4	8	(6)
11 Sheff Utd	6	2	0	1	5	4	0	1	2	3	7	7	(8)
12 Bolton	4	1	1	0	4	2	0	2	0	4	4	6	(8)
13 Portsmth	6	1	1	1	4	2	0	2	1	4	7	6	(8)
14 Crewe	5	2	0	0	5	2	0	0	3	2	6	6	(7)
15 Barnsley	5	1	2	0	4	3	0	1	1	1	3	6	(5)
16 Ipswich	5	0	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	3	0	6	(3)
17 C Palace	4	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	1	2	4	5	(6)
18 Swindon	6	1	2	0	5	4	0	0	3	1	6	5	(6)
19 Oxford Utd	6	1	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	2	5	5	(5)
20 Bradford	5	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	2	1	3	4	(6)
21 Bristol City	6	0	1	2	4	8	0	2	1	4	5	3	(8)
22 QPR	5	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	8	2	(3)
23 Tranmere	4	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	7	2	(2)
24 Port Vale	5	0	0	3	0	8	0	1	1	2	3	1	(2)

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 2 NORTHAMPTON (1) 1
Clarkson 71, Thompson 82; Corazzin 16 (pen); 4,017

BRISTOL R (2) 2 PRESTON (0) 2
Hayles 5, Tillson 24; Harris 49, Jackson 83; 6,702

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Holland 53; 3,766

LINCOLN (0) 1 OLDHAM (2) 3
Smith 61; Graham 28, Littlejohn 34, Allott 71; 3,224

LUTON (0) 1 BURNLEY (0) 0
Douglas 47; 5,554

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 WIGAN (1) 1
4,445; Barlow 25

STOKE (0) 2 BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
Thorne 70, Crowe 76; 12,443

WREXHAM (1) 2 MACCLESFIELD (0) 1
Owen 5, Spink 61; Wood 55; 3,384

YORK (0) 1 COLCHESTER (1) 2
Thompson 75 (pen); Gregory 2, Forbes 87; 2,699

POSTPONED: Fulham v Wycombe (Fools); Walsall v Reading

POOLS VERDICT: Fulham v Wycombe (HT home win, FT home win); Walsall v Reading (HT no score draw, FT home win)

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Gls
1 Stoke	6	3	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	8	4	18	(14)
2 Luton	6	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	4	4	13	(8)
3 Preston	6	2	0	1	8	4	1	2	0	7	6	11	(15)
4 Bournemth	6	2	1	0	6	1	1	1	1	2	3	11	(8)
5 Fulham	5	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	3	1	11	(6)
6 Wrexham	6	3	0	1	8	5	0	1	1	0	4	10	(8)
7 Walsall	5	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	1	4	4	10	(7)
8 Bristol R	6	2	1	0	9	5	0	2	1	2	3	9	(11)
9 Colchester	6	1	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	6	5	9	(7)
10 Chestrfld	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	5	9	(3)
11 Blackpool	6	2	1	0	7	3	0	1	2	1	7	8	(8)
12 Man City	5	2	1	0	6	1	0	1	1	1	4	8	(7)
13 Notts Co	6	0	1	2	2	4	2	1	0	5	2	8	(7)
14 Oldham	6	1	1	1	4	4	1	0	2	3	6	7	(7)
15 York	5	1	1	1	5	3	1	0	1	1	3	7	(6)
16 Millwall	5	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	5	7	(4)
17 Gillingham	6	1	1	1	4	1	0	2	1	3	4	6	(7)
18 Wigan	6	1	0	2	4	4	1	0	2	3	4	6	(7)
19 Burnley	6	2	0	1	4	3	0	0	3	1	5	6	(5)
20 Lincoln	6	1	0	2	5	7	0	2	1	0	2	5	(5)
21 Reading	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	8	3	(4)
22 Northmptn	6	0	2	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	3	3	(3)
23 Macclsfld	6	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	2	1	4	2	(1)
24 Wycombe	5	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	2	1	5	1	(3)

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (1) 1 PETERBOROUGH (4) 9
Bodley 28 (og); Quinn 16, 41, Grazioli 26, 29, 51, 55, 90, Hooper 79, Etherington 90; 2,330
Sent off: J Ford (Barnet) 9, W Goodhind (Barnet) 65

BRIGHTON (1) 1 SWANSEA (0) 0
Hart 26; 2,931

CAMBRIDGE U (2) 2 SCARBOROUGH (1) 3
Butler 8, 10; Lydiate 39, Mirankov 51, Williams 79; 2,385

CARDIFF (0) 1 PLYMOUTH (0) 0
Walton 38 (og); 3,959

EXETER (0) 0 CHESTER (0) 1
2,551; Richardson 54

HULL (1) 2 BRENTFORD (1) 3
Hocking 12, Whitworth 63; Owusu 26, Aspinall 58, Scott 79; 4,058

LEYTON ORIENT (0) 2 CARLISLE (1) 1
Griffiths 64 (pen), Morrison 90; Stevens 22; 3,730

MANSFIELD (0) 0 DARLINGTON (1) 1
2,428; Gabbiadini 33

ROCHDALE (1) 1 SHREWSBURY (0) 0
Bailey 22; 1,660

SCUNTHORPE (2) 2 TORQUAY (0) 0
Hope 43, Gayle 45; 2,421

SOUTHEND (1) 3 ROTHERHAM (0) 0
Newman 22, Fitzpatrick 80, 83; 3,179

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Halifax 2 Hartlepool 1

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Gls
1 Brentford	6	3	0	0	7	1	2	0	1	6	3	15	(13)
2 Rotherham	6	2	1	0	5	1	2	0	1	5	4	13	(10)
3 Halifax	6	3	0	0	5	1	1	1	1	4	3	13	(9)
4 Scunthrpe	6	2	0	1	5	3	2	0	1	5	4	12	(10)
5 Plymouth	6	3	0	0	5	1	1	0	2	2	3	12	(7)
6 Darlington	6	1	1	1	5	4	2	1	0	3	1	11	(8)
7 Peterboro	6	1	1	1	5	4	2	0	1	12	3	10	(17)
8 Hartlpool	6	1	1	1	3	3	2	0	1	5	3	10	(8)
9 Southend	6	2	0	1	5	2	1	1	1	3	5	10	(8)
10 Brighton	6	2	1	0	5	2	1	0	2	2	4	10	(7)
11 Mansfield	6	2	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	5	10	(6)
12 Cambs Utd	6	1	0	2	5	6	1	1	1	4	2	9	(9)
13 L Orient	6	1	0	2	3	8	2	0	1	4	2	8	(7)
14 Chester	6	0	1	2	2	7	1	2	0	4	2	8	(6)
15 Cardiff	6	1	0	2	2	4	2	1	0	4	4	7	(6)
16 Rochdale	6	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	7	(4)
17 Torquay	6	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	4	7	(4)
18 Scarboro	6	0	0	3	4	7	1	0	2	6	3	6	(10)
19 Carlisle	6	2	0	1	4	1	2	0	1	2	7	6	(6)
20 Barnet	6	0	0	3	1	14	0	0	3	4	2	6	(5)
21 Exeter	6	2	0	1	3	1	2	0	1	1	7	6	(4)
22 Hull	6	1	0	2	4	5	0	0	3	3	6	4	(7)
23 Swansea	6	1	1	1	4	3	0	1	2	1	4	4	(5)
24 Shrwsbury	6	1	0	2	2	6	0	0	3	1	5	3	(3)

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 6: C Bellamy (Norwich), L Hughes (West Brom), D Adebola (Birmingham); J Aloisi (Portsmouth), N Blake (Bolton) 5; K Phillips (Sunderland), M Stewart (Huddersfield), D Dichio (Sunderland), A Akinbiyi (Bristol City), S Bull (Wolverhampton), D Saunders (Sheffield Utd) 4; B Angell (Stockport), S Anderson (Bristol City), R Keane (Wolverhampton), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth)

Includes all competitions

SCOTLAND

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (1) 2 HAMILTON (2) 3
Lyons 36, Hurst 46; Geraghty 15, 66, Wales 37; 1,917

CLYDEBANK (0) 2 HIBERNIAN (0) 2
Teale 73, Brannigan 30; Harper 58, Crawford 89; 1,303

RAITH (0) 0 GK MORTON (0) 0
1,894

ST MIRREN (0) 0 FALKIRK (0) 2
2,390; McKenzie 72, Keith 73

STRANRAER (0) 1 AIRDRIE (1) 2
Ronald 75; Moore 2, Taylor 79; 620

SECOND DIVISION

FORFAR (0) 2 CLYDE (0) 2
Mann 18 (pen), Brand 89; Spittal 68, Convery 75 (pen); 494
Sent off: J Hamilton (Forfar) 66

INVERNESS CT (1) 2 ARBROATH (0) 1
Crawford 44 (og), Shearer 57; Gallagher 89; 1,836

LIVINGSTON (2) 3 EAST FIFE (1) 1
Bingham 7, 82 (pen), Robertson 35; Moffat 31; 3,205
Sent off: W McCulloch (East Fife) 82

PARTICK (0) 1 ALLOA (0) 0
Morgan 68; 1,760

STIRLING (0) 1 QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 0
Nicholas 56; 640

THIRD DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 0 ROSS COUNTY (0) 2
453; Adams 52, 87

COWDENBEATH (0) 0 BRECHIN (1) 1
262; Dickson 24

EAST STIRLING (1) 1 DUMBARTON (1) 2
McNeill 42; Robertson 18, King 58; 225

MONTROSE (0) 1 ALBION (0) 2
Farnham 62; Lorimer 52 (pen), Bruce 61; 245

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0
549

GOALSCORERS

PREMIER DIVISION: 7: J Albertz (Rangers); 5: C Burley (Celtic), R Wallace (Rangers); 4: A McCoist (Kilmarnock), P Wright (Kilmarnock); 3: H Larsson (Celtic), S Fulton (Hearts), J Hamilton (Hearts), D Dodds (Aberdeen); 2: C Hignett (Aberdeen), M Perry (Aberdeen), S Adam (Hearts), A Kanchelskis (Rangers), G Van Bronckhorst (Rangers), G Amato (Rangers)

FIRST DIVISION: 5: M Geraghty (Hamilton); 4: G Wales (Hamilton), S Crawford (Hibernian), M Keith (Falkirk); G Hurst (Ayr); 3: A Moore (Airdrie); 2: I Nicolson (St Mirren), T Brown (St Mirren), S Crabbe (Falkirk), J Davies (Ayr), P Hartley (Raith), S Lovell (Hibernian), A Lyons (Ayr), P Ronald (Stranraer), J Skinner (Hibernian)

Includes all competitions

CONFERENCE

CHELTENHAM (2) 4 MORECAMBE (1) 1
Grayson 2, 65, Howells 32, 89; Norman 9; 1,959

DONCASTER (0) 0 FOREST GREEN (0) 1
3,402; Hunt 61

FARNBOROUGH (1) 2 LEEK (0) 1
West 43, Dailey 66; McAuley 72; 579

HEREFORD (0) 0 HAYES (0) 1
2,053; Catlin 58

KETTERING (0) 1 KIDDERMINSTR (0) 1
Vowden 69; Willetts 54 (pen); 1,684
Sent off: M Yates (Kidderminster) 90

NORTHWICH (1) 2 KINGSTONIAN (0) 3
Walters 39 (pen), Filson 71; Luckett 56 (pen), Mustapha 84, Corbett 87; 906
Sent off: G Patterson (Kingstonian) 81

STEVENAGE (0) 0 SOUTHPORT (0) 0
2,435

TELFORD (1) 1 DOVER (1) 1
Hotbury 35; Adams 5; 588
Sent off: R Rena (Dover) 87

WELLING (0) 1 HEDNESFORD (0) 1
Hynes 81; Davis 86; 507

WOKING (2) 2 BARROW (0) 3
Goddard 41, West 45; Darcey 61 (og), Foster 72, Match 73; 1,917

YEOVIL (0) 0 RUSHDEN & D (1) 1
2,876; Foster 18

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pts
Rushden	7	3	0	0	12	1	4	0	0	9	1	21
Stevenage	7	2	[illegible]	0	5	2	2	1	0	4	2	15
Cheltenham	7	2	2	0	11	5	2	0	1	5	3	14
Kingstonian	7	2	0	1	5	6	2	2	0	7	4	14
Kettering	7	1	2	1	5	[illegible]	2	1	0	6	2	12
Southport	7	1	1	1	4	4	2	2	0	6	4	12
Hednesford	7	[illegible]	1	0	5	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	1	4	5	12
Dover	7	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	2	1	1	5	5	11
Kidderminstr	7	3	0	0	11	4	0	1	3	5	6	10
Yeovil	7	1	0	3	5	7	2	1	0	5	3	10
Morecambe	7	2	1	0	6	3	1	0	3	5	11	10
Leek	7	2	0	1	11	2	1	0	1	3	5	9
Welling	7	1	3	0	5	4	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hereford	7	[illegible]	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	1	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
Northwich	7	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	4	5	0	[illegible]	1	2	3	[illegible]
Hayes	7	1	1	1	3	2	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	10	8
Farnborough	7	1	1	[illegible]	5	8	0	2	1	0	4	6
Doncaster	7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	5	5
Forest Green	7	0	0	3	2	6	1	2	1	4	[illegible]	5
Barrow	7	0	2	1	3	4	1	0	3	6	10	5
Telford	7	0	3	1	2	4	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	6	4
Woking	7	0	1	3	6	9	0	0	3	3	8	1



Bruce Grobbelaar takes charge on his return to the Nationwide League for Bury against Birmingham City at St Andrew's on Saturday. He had been playing for Chesham United in the Ryman League. Report, page 31

ALEX LIVESEY

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop Auckland 2 Runcorn 3; Blyth Spartans 0 Altrincham 0; Chorley 2 Whitby 2; Colwyn Bay 0 Frickley 2; Emley 3 Accrington Stanley 1; Gateshead 2 Bamber Bridge 0; Guiseley 2 Winsford 3; Hyde 3 Spennymoor 0; Lancaster 1 Stalybridge 1; Leigh RMI 3 Gainsborough 0; Marine 1 Worksop 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worksop	5	4	1	0	7	2	13
Hyde Utd	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Whitby Town	5	3	2	0	11	6	11
Winsford Utd	5	3	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	10
Blyth Spartans	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	5	3	10
Leigh RMI	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Runcorn	5	[illegible]	3	0	5	5	9
Emley	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	9	[illegible]	8
Gateshead	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	5	5	9
Stalybridge	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	5	7	5
Bamber Bridge	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chorley	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Frickley	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Marine	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	5
Guiseley	5	1	1	3	8	5	4
Bishop Auck	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Altrincham	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
Colwyn Bay	5	1	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	9	[illegible]
Lancaster	5	0	[illegible]	2	6	9	3
Gainsborough	5	0	2	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	2
Accrington S	5	0	2	3	[illegible]	10	2
Spennymoor	5	0	1	4	8	16	1

FIRST DIVISION: Alfreton 2 Congleton 1; Droylsden 3 Radcliffe 2; Farsley Celtic 0 Lincoln 0; Great Harwood 0 Belper Town 1; Hucknall 6 Gretna 1; Stocksbridge PS 0 Netherfield Kendal 3; Whitley Bay 0 Eastwood Town 1

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 3 Dorchester 1; Boston 2 Bromsgrove 2; Burton 4 Cambridge City 1; Crawley 0 Nuneaton 3; Grantham 5 Merthyr 2; Gresley 4 Salisbury 1; Hastings 3 Ilkeston 0; King's Lynn 2 Gloucester 0; Tamworth 1 Bath 1; Weymouth 1 Halesowen 2; Worcester 1 Rothwell 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	5	5	0	0	13	4	15
Gresley R	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Grantham	5	4	0	1	12	8	12
Hastings	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Burton Albion	5	3	0	2	11	5	9
Worcester C	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Gloucester C	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Bath City	5	2	1	2	[illegible]	5	7
Weymouth	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Atherstone	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Halesowen	5	2	1	2	[illegible]	9	7
Salisbury	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Cambridge C	5	2	1	2	[illegible]	8	7
Boston Utd	5	1	3	1	[illegible]	6	6
Merthyr	5	2	0	3	9	11	6
Bromsgrove	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
Tamworth	5	1	1	3	7	8	4
Kings Lynn	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Rothwell Town	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Ilkeston Tn	5	0	3	2	6	11	3
Crawley Town	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Dorchester	5	0	1	4	3	11	1

MIDLAND DIVISION: Ecclesfield 0 Clevedon 1; Bloxwich 1 Bilston 6; Cinderford 1 Stamford AFC 1; Solihull Boro 2 Moor Green 3; Stourbridge 1 Evesham 0. Southern division: Bashley 1 Andover 0; Havant and Waterlooville 3 Raunds 1; Sittingbourne 1 Newport IOW 0

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 0 St Albans 0; Basingstoke 1 Hendon 1; Bishop's Stortford 0 Aldershot Town 8; Bromley 2 Enfield 1; Chesham 0 Dulwich 0; Dagenham and Redbridge 1 Billericay 2; Gravesend and Northfleet 2 Harrow 0; Hampton 3 Boreham Wood 3; Purfleet 4 Carshalton 2; Sutton United 1 Heybridge Swifts 1; Walton and Hersham 2 Slough 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bromley	5	4	1	0	15	3	13
Aldershot Tn	5	3	2	0	17	1	11
Aylesbury	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Basingstoke	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
Billericay Tn	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Slough	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
St Albans	5	2	3	0	[illegible]	4	9
Sutton Utd	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Walton & H	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Purfleet	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Dag & Red	5	2	1	2	[illegible]	8	7
Dulwich	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Chesham	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Hampton	5	1	2	2	7	12	5
Boreham Wood	5	0	4	1	4	7	4
Gravesend	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Carshalton	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Bishop's S	5	0	4	1	6	14	4
Enfield	5	1	0	4	7	8	3
Hendon	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Harrow Boro	5	0	2	3	5	13	2
Heybridge	5	0	2	3	5	19	2

FIRST DIVISION: Barton 0 Worthing 0; Berkhamsted 3 Romford 3; Leatherhead 1 Chertsey 2; Uxbridge 2 Staines 2; Whyteleafe 2 Braintree 3; Leyton 0 Bognor Regis 2. Second division: Bracknell 0 Windsor and Eton 1; Chalfont St Peter 2 Edgware 4; Harlow 7 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Hungerford 1 Leighton 1; Met Police 2 Hertford 0

FA CHALLENGE CUP: Preliminary round. Abingdon Town 0 Maidenhead 3; Arlesey 0 Barking 2; Ashford 1 Erith and Belvedere 3; Ashford 1 Margate 1; Ashington 2 Horden CW 1; Ashton 5 Willington 2; Atherton Collieries 1 Armthorpe Welfare 2; Backwell 2 Calne 1; Bashley 4 Rumcorn 2; Bideford 1 Barnstaple 2; Boston 2 Blackstone 0; Bowers 5 Wisbech Blue Cross 3; Bradford Park Avenue 4 Easington Colliery 1; Bridgnorth 3 Bemerton 3; Bridgwater 5 Witton 0; Burgess Hill 1 Thame 0; Burnham Ramblers 2 Soham 1; Bury Town 1 Tilbury 1; Canvey Island 6 Stansted 1; Chatham 0 Horsham 1; Chelmsford 6 Fakenham 0; Cirencester 3 Chippenham 2; Corby 0 Leek CSOB 4; Cowes Sports 1 Dorking 3; Deal 4 Hillingdon 1; Desborough 1 Cheshunt 0; Eastbourne Town 1 Herne Bay 0; Egham 2 Fisher 2; Emerge 1 Yate 0; Eynesbury 3 Southall 3; Falmouth 1 Devizes 0; Fareham 0 Croydon 2; Farnham 1 Hailsham 1; Felixstowe P and T 1 Ford Sports Daventry 2; Fleton 3 Northallerton 0; Folkestone Invicta 1 Tonbridge Angels 0; Ford 2 Wellingborough 0; Godalming and Guildford 1 Banstead 2; Guisborough 1 Rossington Main 3; Halesowen Harriers 2 Stourport 1; Halstead 3 Flackwell Heath 0; Harpenden 3 Burnham 2; Harrogate Town 1 Burscough 2; Hinckley 2 Rushall Olympic 0; Hornchurch 1 London Colney 1; Fundsbury 4 Grays 4; Leyton Pennant 2 Wembley 1; Littlehampton 1 Fleet 4; Lye 0 Racing Club Warwick 1; Marlow 2 Hemel Hempstead 1; Marske 1 Billingham Synthonia 1; Matlock Town 4 Redditch 1; Minehead 4 Frome 0; Molesey 1 Oxford City 4; Newport AFC 0 Weston Super Mare 0; Oldham 0 Warmington 2; Paulton 2 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 1; Portfield 1 Eastleigh 1; Potters Bar 2 Wealdstone 2; Potton 0 Baldock 3; Ramsbottom 0 Maine Road 0; Rossendale 0 Brigg 3; Sandwell 0 Blakenall 3; Sheffield 2 Atherton LR 4; Shepshed Dynamo 1 Barwell 1; Shotton Comrades 1 Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA 2; Stafford 3 Boldmere St Michaels 0; Stockton 1 Liversedge 4; Stotfold 2 Sudbury 2; Stowmarket 5 Gorleston 1; Sutton Coldfield Town 1 VS Rugby 0; Tadcaster 1 Ossett Town 0; Thackley 2 Hebburn 1; Torrington 0 Melksham 1; Trafford 4 Prescot Newtown 1; Tring 0 Waltham Abbey 2; Welwyn Garden 6 East Thurrock 1; Wisbech 2 Bedford Town 3; Witney 3 Northwood 0; Wokingham 0 Camberley 2; Yorkshire Amateur 1 Witton 3; Durham 2 Dunston FB 0; Dartford 0 Reading 0; St Leonards 0 Wick 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bournemouth 2 Brentford 1; Brighton 2 Barnet 1; Bristol Rovers 1 Swindon 1; Cambridge Utd 2 Wycombe 2; Gillingham 1 Portsmouth 1; Leyton Orient 2 Southend Utd 1; Oxford Utd 0 Luton Town 3; Reading 2 Colchester Utd 1

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE. Under-19: Barnsley 1 Coventry 1; Blackburn 2 Ipswich 1; Bolton 4 Millwall 1; Crewe 1 Arsenal 0; Fulham 1 Leicester 0; Leeds 1 Chelsea 1; Middlesbrough 2 Crystal Palace 1; Newcastle 2 Charlton 0; Peterborough 6 Everton 1; QPR 2 Sheffield Wed 5; Southampton 1 Nottm Forest 1; Sunderland 3 Bristol City 1; Tottenham 1 Liverpool 1; Watford 2 Man City 1; West Ham 3 Man Utd 0; Wimbledon 2 Derby 1. Under 17: Aston Villa 1 Leeds 1; Barnsley 2 Coventry 1; Blackburn 1 Millwall 0; Crewe 2 Arsenal 2; Fulham 0 Leicester 1; Newcastle 4 Charlton 1; Peterborough 0 Everton 4; QPR 2 Sheffield Wed 5; Southampton 1 Nottm Forest 2; Sunderland 3 Bristol City 0; Tottenham 1 Liverpool 1; Watford 2 Man City 3; West Ham 1 Man Utd 2; Wimbledon 1 Derby 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 0 Kington 4; Bustleholme 0 Stafford 2; Dudley Town 0 Cradley 4; Ludlow 1 Bandon 0; Malvern 5 Ettingshall 2; Smethwick 7 Darlaston 2; Tividale 2 Lawson Mardon Star 0; Walsall Wood 2 Westfields 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 6 Tipton 0; Wolverhampton 3 Gornal 2

THE PONTIN'S LEAGUE. Premier division: Everton 0 Manchester Utd 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Chaselown 0 Pershore T 0; Pelsall V 1 Rocester 6; Wednesfield 3 Stapenhill 1; W Mid Police 2 Stratford T 0; Willenhall 3 Knypersley V 1

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 2 Cobham 2; Ash 8 Feltham 0; Chipstead 4 Bedfont 2; Cranleigh 0 Sandhurst 1; Hartley Wintney 3 Chessington and Hook 0; Netherne 4 Walton Casuals 0; Raynes Park Vale 1 Westfield 3; Viking Sports 2 Cove 3

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby 1 North Ferriby 1; Eccleshill 1 Pickering 1; Garforth 3 Arnold 2; Ossett Albion 2 Glasshoughton Welfare 1; Pontefract Cols 1 Buxton 4; Selby 2 Hallam 3; Staveley MW 1 Maltby MW 3

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe 0 Newcastle Town 0; Glossop North End 1 Chorley 3; Mossley 5 Bootle 0; Prescot Cables 0 Kidsgrove 1.

Salford 1 Nantwich 2; Skelmersdale 1 Workington 0; Vauxhall G M 3 Holker Old Boys 0

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division North: Brache Sparta 5 Hoddesdon 2; Brimsdown 0 Barkingside 2; Brook House 2 Beaconsfield Sycob 0; Buckingham Athletic 2 Toddington 7; New Bradwell St Peter 3 St Margaretsbury 2; Ruislip Manor 3 Milton Keynes 1; Somersett Ambury 1 Islington St Mary's 2. Postponed: Haringey v Royston

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 3 Newcastle Blue Star 1; Consett 2 Seaham Red Star 3; Crook 1 Chester-le-Street 2; Morpeth 2 Penrith 3; Shildon 1 South Shields 1; [illegible]

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 2 Fairford 1; Banbury 1 Tuffley 1; Bicester 2 Kintbury 0; Carterton 3 Didcot 0; Highworth 3 Almondsbury 1; North Leigh 2 Hallen 3; Shortwood 1 EFC Cheltenham 1; Swindon Supermarine 2 Harrow Hill 1; Wantage 0 Cirencester Academy 3

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 1 Sudbury Wanderers 0; Ipswich 3 Ely 1; Lowestoft 1 Wroxham 1; Maldon 1 Histon 1; Newmarket 1 Great Yarmouth 1; Warboys 2 Harwich and Parkeston 1; Walton 2 Woodbridge 1

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE. First division: BAT 1 Downton 1; Christchurch 2 Portsmouth RN 1; East Cowes 0 Gosport 3; Hamble Club 2 Bournemouth 3; Lymington and New Milton 2 Whitchurch 0; Moneyfields 0 Wimborne 3

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 2 N Spencer 2; Buckingham 2 Yaxley 1; Cogenhoe 1 Kempston 0; Holbeach 2 S and L Corby 2; St Neots 4 Long Buckby 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 0 Lingney Sports 4; Eastbourne 1 East Preston 2; Horsham YMCA 2 Hassocks 0; Pagham 1 Shoreham 1; Ringmer 1 Chichester 3

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham 2 Slade Green 2; Canterbury 1 Whitstable 0; Crockenhill 2 Cray 1; Erith 2 Sheppey 5; Hythe 0 Greenwich 1; Thamesmead 0 Faversham 1; Tunbridge Wells 2 Lordswood 2

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE. National division: Bradford 0 Arsenal 3; Everton 0 Croydon 0; Millwall 1 Liverpool 0; Southampton 0 Ilkeston Tn 1; Tranmere Rov 1 Doncaster 3

NATIONAL

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE. Premier division: Ballymena 1 Portadown 0; Crusaders 2 Cliftonville 1; Glenavon 2 Omagh 0; Linfield 2 Coleraine 1; Newry 1 Glentoran 2

ULSTER CUP: First division: Ards 3 Carrick 1; Bangor 1 Distillery 3; Larne 4 Ballyclare 0; Limavady 1 Dungannon S 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: Rhyl 1 Cwmbran 4

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove 5 Brora 4; Deveronvale 4 Fort William 2; Elgin 1 Rothes 0; Forres Mechanics 0 Peterhead 1; Fraserburgh 1 Cluchnacuddin 1; Keith 3 Huntly 2; Nairn County 1 Lossiemouth 2; Wick Academy 3 Buckie Thistle 2

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps 1 Waterford 2; Sligo Rovers 2 Bohemians 2

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP — SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	4	2	0	0	6	1	1	0	1	4	3	9	+6
2 Celtic	4	2	0	0	7	1	0	1	1	3	4	7	+5
3 Kilmarnock	4	2	0	1	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	7	+3
4 Aberdeen	4	1	0	0	3	2	1	1	1	3	3	7	+1
5 Motherwell	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	7	+1
6 Hearts	4	2	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	3	7	0
7 Dunfrmline	4	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	5	5	-3
8 St Johnstn	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	5	4	-4
9 Dundee Utd	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	5	1	-4
10 Dundee	4	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	-5

FIRST DIVISION

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Falkirk	5	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	3	0	13	+5
2 Hamilton	5	0	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	7	3	11	+4
3 Hibernian	5	1	0	1	5	4	1	2	0	4	3	8	+2
4 Airdrie	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	8	+1
5 St Mirren	5	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	7	-1
6 Clydebank	5	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	0	4	2	6	+1
7 Raith	5	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	5	-2
8 Ayr	5	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	2	2	5	4	-3
9 Stranraer	5	0	0	3	1	5	1	0	1	2	2	3	-4
10 G Morton	5	0	1	2	3	5	0	1	1	0	1	2	-3

SECOND DIVISION

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Inverness C	5	2	0	0	4	2	2	1	0	7	2	13	+7
2 Partick	5	1	1	1	3	3	2	0	0	3	1	10	+2
3 Clyde	5	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	4	3	8	+2
4 Livingston	5	1	2	0	5	3	1	0	1	2	2	8	+2
5 Stirling	5	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	4	8	7	-4
6 Alloa	5	1	1	1	9	3	0	1	1	2	3	5	+5
7 Forfar	5	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	4	4	5	-1
8 East Fife	5	0	1	1	3	7	1	1	1	3	3	5	-4
9 Arbroath	5	1	0	2	2	6	0	1	1	1	2	4	-5
10 Queen Of S	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	5	2	-4

THIRD DIVISION

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Ross Co	5	3	0	0	6	1	2	0	0	10	0	15	+15
2 Brechin	5	2	1	0	6	2	1	1	0	2	1	11	+5
3 Dumbarton	5	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	3	1	10	+2
4 Cowdnbth	5	2	0	1	6	3	1	0	1	2	3	9	+2
5 Stenhsmuir	5	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	7	+1
6 Albion	5	1	0	1	2	9	1	0	2	3	5	6	-9
7 Queen's Pk	5	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	4	5	+1
8 Berwick	5	1	0	2	2	6	0	2	0	1	1	5	-4
9 East Stirling	5	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	3	1	4	1	-4
10 Montrose	5	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	3	2	10	1	-9

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
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FORECAST. Half-time: no draws required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is good, seven score draws and 10 no-score draws. Full-time: no claims required — forecast is low, 12 score draws and five no-score draws.

VERNONS PLAY LOTTERY GAME

RESULTS FOR THIS SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There will be payouts on seven, six and five score draws. This week's confirmed number of winners 5367. This week's confirmed total prize fund is £515,712. This week's confirmed pay out for seven score draws: £85,809.50 for 4 winners. Six score draws: £521.50 for 1,32[illegible]. Five score draws: £5 for 5,0[illegible]. The score draws were: Bristol Rovers v Preston, Kettering v Kidderminster, Telford v Dover, Welling v Hednesford, Basingstoke v Hendon, Clydebank v Hibernian, Forfar v Clyde

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THE TIMES MONDAY SEP[illegible]

Nationwide [illegible]

Grobbela[illegible] class fai[illegible] to save B[illegible]

Preston make p[illegible] lack of surface

Bristol Rovers [illegible]
Preston North End [illegible]

WH[illegible] UNPLU[illegible] TH[illegible] KARA[illegible] MAC[illegible]

Nationwide League: Adebola goal proves decisive as Birmingham stay among early leaders

Grobbelaar class fails to save Bury

Birmingham City 1
Bury 0

BY RICHARD HOBSON

AT THIS early stage of the season the league tables offer no more than a guide to what might happen in the months ahead. They reflect form, but not trends. Before kick-off at St Andrew's, Bury sat two places above Birmingham City, third in the Nationwide League first division, but whether they emerge as genuine challengers for promotion is doubtful in the extreme.

It will take more than the temporary acquisition of Bruce Grobbelaar, too, if they hope to win many friends under the management of Neil Warnock. "This was a throwback to the Wimbledon of ten years ago," Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said after a victory that should have been far more comprehensive.

The dismissal of Andy Woodward after an hour, for obstructing Robinson when the Birmingham player had a clear run at goal, prompted a sequence of fouls that, in turn, provoked much finger-pointing between the occupants of the respective dugouts. Marsden appeared to be elbowed by Johnrose and a two-footed challenge by Daws on Michael Johnson might have caused serious injury.

Warnock said: "I thought one or two untidy things happened in the first half from Birmingham which were not spotted. In the second half we gave as good as we got and they didn't like it." Clearly his sunglasses were rose-tinted.

It is easy to explain this defeat by the absence of Dean Kiely, the goalkeeper, to the Republic of Ireland. Kiely had not conceded a league goal in five games, and a misunderstanding between Grobbelaar and Lucketti, the defender, contributed towards the fortuitous strike by Dele Adebola, in the eighteenth minute, that ultimately decided the game.

Grobbelaar, though, who has been playing for Chesham United in the Rymans League and had agreed to play here as a one-off, made subsequent saves from Forster, Hughes and Andy Johnson that stretched beyond the expectations of duty.

Stretched is a good word because, at 40, he remains as agile as ever.

"There must be a second or third division club he can play for," Warnock said in perhaps the only part of his press conference surviving close analysis. Grobbelaar, too, said that he was baffled at the lack of interest from anybody other than Warnock. Apart from being a decent goalkeeper, he has box-office appeal. The gates at Chesham have doubled to more than 2,000 this season.

For Francis, the immediate priority is to find a striker, either on loan or from the treatment room. Furlong and Ndlovu are some way from recovery from injury and Adebola hurt a calf while scoring his sixth goal in seven games.

The chance may fall to Andy Johnson, the third youngest debutant at the club after Francis and Neil Sproston. Johnson, 17, has the pace to worry defenders and his positional sense and touch should improve with opportunity. O'Connor hit the post, but Forster in particular finished wastefully.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I Bennett — G Rowett, G Ablett, M Johnson, M Grainger — S Robinson, M O'Connor, C Marsden (sub: C Holland, 78min), B Hughes (sub: D Purse, 84) — D Adebola (sub: A Johnson, 46), N Forster.

BURY (3-5-2): B Grobbelaar — C Lucketti, S Redmond, C Swailes — A Woodward, N Daws (sub: M Patterson, 84), J Foster (sub: R Matthews, 26), L Johnrose, D Barrack — A Preece, L D'Jaffo (sub: A Ellis, 63)

Referee: F Stretton.


GILL ALLEN

Whitbread, left, the Portsmouth defender, gets in a tackle on Powell, of Oxford, at the Manor Ground yesterday

Jordan watches Oxford get into gear

Oxford United 3
Portsmouth 0

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE discovery of a winning habit by Eddie Jordan in the Belgian Grand Prix last weekend rubbed off on Oxford United yesterday as they won their first game of the season and scored their first home goals of the campaign.

Jordan, who lives locally but claims to support Coventry City, received applause from spectators as he took his place in the Manor Ground directors' box before the game, but whether in honour of his achievements or in the hope that he will be taking an active role in the club's affairs was unclear. If he has a similar effect every time he pays one of his occasional visits to his local team, the club should send him a season ticket immediately.

The opening stages suggested that it was unlikely that Jordan would bring the home side luck as Portsmouth swept forward, with the Oxford defence looking ponderous and jittery. Oxford, however, took the lead against the run of play in the 27th minute with their first move of quality, which ended with the right back, Robinson, receiving the ball in space before crossing for Simon Marsh, the left back, to score with an unchallenged header.

It was Oxford's first goal in 430 minutes and they clearly liked the feeling, extending their lead seven minutes later. Pethick, booked previously for a foul, pulled back Cook as he advanced on goal and Paul Taylor, the referee, awarded a penalty, converted with relish by Dean Windass, and showed Pethick his second yellow card.

"No complaints, he did grab his shirt, but the first tackle wasn't a booking as far as I was concerned," Alan Ball, the Portsmouth manager, said. "A lot of people would have thought there was only going to be one winner and that was Portsmouth; but the game wasn't a contest as soon as we lost our man and went two down."

Ball put on his two latest signings, Jean-François Peron and Martin Phillips, at half-time, but John Aloisi, the division's leading scorer with seven goals so far this season, was their best bet for a goal, throwing himself at a near-post cross from Thorgersen but heading over, and seeing a left-foot shot well saved by Whitehead, before Windass, Oxford's record signing at £470,000 from Aberdeen in the summer, sealed the win with a fierce shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Malcolm Shotton, the Oxford manager, took encouragement from the game for the derby fixture with Swindon Town this week, who also won their first game of the season over the weekend. "We started the season well, but went a bit haywire," he said. "We're ready for Swindon." That's at the County Ground on Wednesday, Mr Jordan.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Whitehead — L Robinson, P Whelan, P Gilchrist (sub: A Thomson, 45min), S Marsh — J Beauchamp, D Windass, M Gray (D Hill, 76), P Powell — J Cook, M Murphy

PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A Rahaven — R Pethick, A Awford, A Whitbread — T Thorgersen, D Hillier (sub: N Kyzeridis 64), A McLoughlin, S Igoe (J-F Peron, 45), F Simpson — J Durnin (M Phillips, 45), J Aloisi

Referee: P Taylor

Bruce left to work with limited resources

Huddersfield Town 1
Sheffield United 0

BY PETER ROBINSON

STEVE BRUCE managed a smile, but it was a pretty rueful effort. It was not simply the fact that Sheffield United had lost; it was, to quote Douglas Adams, more a question of life, the universe and everything — and no, the answer is not 42, it runs into millions, as in several, for the spending of.

Having enjoyed his best days at Manchester United, where cash flowed like water, Bruce, the United manager, is seeing how the other half live. Like his peers up and down the Nationwide League, he is reduced to complaints about injuries and absentees, especially after seeing David Holdsworth, his captain and centre half, twist his knee ligaments.

"Will this give you a stick to get something out of the board?" he was asked. That smile again, and a shrug. "I will do what I can, but if you haven't got anything, you haven't got anything, it is as simple as that," he replied. "We are down to the bare minimum, but I hope that changes. We will see."

Indeed it might, for there were plenty of FA Carling Premiership clubs at the McAlpine Stadium on Saturday casting coveted glances at, among others, Wayne Quinn, the United left back. It seemed best not to mention that to Bruce.

There were few questions about the game, either, Bruce's depleted team losing unluckily to Allison's header three minutes from time.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N Vaesen — S Jenkins, A Morrison (sub: K Gray, 46min), S Collins, R Edwards — L Richardson (sub: P Dalton, 65), B Horne, G Johnson, B Thornley — W Allison, M Stewart.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): S Tracey — C Wilder, D Holdsworth (sub: N Marker, 40), L Sandford, W Quinn — G Stuart, R Ford, J Hunt, C Woodhouse (sub: Marcelo, 78) — P Devlin, G Taylor.

Referee: K Lynch.

Ward feels unfulfilled by City's late show

Swindon Town 3
Bristol City 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

"IF I were a neutral football supporter," John Ward, the Bristol City manager, said, "I'd follow us all round the country." Committed City fans, however, could be finding the strain too much. The trip to Sunderland tomorrow night, for example, promises entertainment, but points? Unlikely on City's showing on Saturday.

Even Steve McMahon, the Swindon Town manager, had reservations about the manner of his side's victory, their first since March, which saw them all but squander a three-goal lead and finish the game with only nine men.

Swindon's lead, some neutrals might have thought, owed much to two contentious early decisions by Paul Rejer, the referee: a first-minute penalty awarded for Edwards's challenge on Bullock, converted by Walters, and a free kick three minutes later that led to Ndah heading the second. Onuora slid in the third after eight minutes.

The dangerous Akinbiyi began City's comeback after 63 minutes, poking Tinnion's low cross past Talia, the Swindon goalkeeper, who suffered a broken nose in attempting to save. Twelve minutes later, Davis was dismissed for a foul on Murray, Bell scoring City's second from the resulting penalty.

A second yellow card for Hulbert left Swindon with nine men to hold out for what McMahon called "the longest eight minutes in the history of football".

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): F Talia — D Kerslake, A Reeves, B Borrows (sub: S Davis, 20min), G Hall — M Walters, M Bullock, S Leitch (sub: R Hulbert, 79), T Gooden — I Onuora, G Ndah

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): K Welch — A Locke, J Watts, S Dyche, M Bell — S Murray, T Doherty, R Edwards (sub: M Hewlett, 46), B Tinnion — A Thorpe (sub: C Cramb, 46), A Akinbiyi

Referee: P Rejer

Preston make point from lack of surface tension

Bristol Rovers 2
Preston North End 2

BY BILL EDGAR

EIGHTEEN months ago, Bristol Rovers' much-used pitch was described as a cows' field by Gary Peters, then Preston North End manager. Since the cattle gates will only reopen for the herd of marauding Bristol rugby players next week, after their summer break, the footballers have been granted an excellent surface for a month before the price starts to be paid for milking the ground's financial potential.

The pitch helped a flowing game on Saturday. There were some fine attacking displays from Barry Hayles, of Rovers, and Jason Harris, a Preston substitute. Hayles scored his sixth goal of the season and saw Andy Tillson double the lead with an impressive twist and shot before the break. Harris, an elusive left winger on loan from Leyton Orient, headed the opening goal before Michael Jackson nodded home a late equaliser to lift North End into third place.

The home side's frustration at the result may have been experienced recently by Preston fans hoping for a wealthy benefactor to appear. A lifelong North End supporter has reportedly spent £74 million on various entertainment centres. Such decisions can set a club's course for decades.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — S Leont (sub: M Smith, 78min), A Tillson, S Foster, L Basford — M Meaker, I Holloway, R Trees, J Cureton — G Ipoua (sub: J Roberts, 64), B Hayles

PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): T Mokanan — G Parkinson, M Jackson, R Kidd, D Lucketti — P McKenna (sub: L Cartwright, 79), M Rankine, S Gregan, D Eyres (sub: J Harris, 46) — K Nogan (sub: J Darby, 90), J Macken.

Referee: A Hall.

Little sets the record straight

Stoke City 2
Bournemouth 0

BY KEITH PIKE

THERE were times in the past couple of years when Brian Little seemed in danger of being crushed by the weight of a club's expectations on his slim shoulders. Fidgeting uncomfortably in the press room at Villa Park, eyes screwed tight shut, his thumb massaging his temple and ageing before the eyes of his inquistors and critics as he searched for answers. The suffering was almost too painful to watch. And that was when Villa had won.

It was a brighter, springier Little who breezed around the bowels of the Britannia Stadium on Saturday, his Stoke City team having extended the only 100 per cent record in senior football to six matches to establish a five-point lead at the top of the Nationwide League second division. Promotion remains an objective some way in the distance; in the meantime, perfection will do nicely, thank you.

The same Little who, 12 months ago, had earned an unwanted place in the record books when Villa lost their first four matches, now has pride of place in the Potteries. Stoke have bettered the feat of their 1905-06 team. They have had some luck along the way, as Little himself admits, and they had a tad more against Bournemouth, for whom Mark Stein missed two inviting chances with the game deadlocked. But they are also a neat, well-organised and occasionally fluent unit, and for that, Little must take the credit.

For the moment, certainly, he can do no wrong. There were one or two eyebrows raised when supporters discovered that Dean Crowe had been omitted from a team already missing the influential Graham Kavanagh through suspension as well as Larus Sigurdsson, who was helping Iceland to hold the world champions, France. Those doubts were eventually answered. Thorne broke Bournemouth's resistance in the 71st minute and Crowe came off the bench to enliven the last quarter of the match, scoring Stoke's second and tormenting a tiring defence.

STOKE CITY (3-5-2): C Muggleton — J Whittle, P Robinson, S Woods — C Short, D Oldfield (sub: R Heath, 85min), R Wallace (sub: D Crowe, 65), K Keen, B Small (sub: S Tweed, 72) — K Lightbourne, P Thorne

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): M Dyendale — N Young, I Cox, E Howe, J Vincent — M Berthe (sub: D Town, 17; sub: J Tindall, 74), S Robinson, J Bailey (sub: M Dean, 78), R Hughes — S Fletcher, M Stein.

Referee: P Richards.

Fitzpatrick double signals black day for Rotherham

Southend United 3
Rotherham United 0

BY KEVIN EASON

THE tall man in the dark suit rose slowly to his feet, like an undertaker, to shout in a suitably sepulchral tone "more movement up front," at the blue shirts. It was as though 224 minutes without a goal had numbed his senses, even to the fact that Southend United had actually scored — a slithering slug of a shot from 25 yards from Robert Newman.

Rotherham had not suffered such traumas on their way to the top of the Nationwide League third division, yet it was difficult to discern how they had scored ten goals in five games, given that they showed little ambition.

Despite the goal, Southend looked desperately in need of a target to aim at up front. Then Alvin Martin, the manager, introduced Trevor Fitzpatrick. Within two minutes of his arrival he had scored. Mike Pollitt, the Rotherham keeper, failed to hold an aimless head forward by Julian Hails, David Whyte pounced and Fitzpatrick fired his first league goal into an empty net.

He repeated the trick two minutes later with a simple header from a corner. The undertaker could barely believe it and raised a smile. For a moment, it seemed he might even cheer.

SOUTHEND UNITED: M Margetson — D Morley, R Newman, K Dublin — J Hails, K Maher, M Gooding (sub: N Jones, 85min), A Clarke, M Stimson — A Burns (sub: T Fitzpatrick, 78), D Whyte

ROTHERHAM UNITED: M Pollitt — V Warner, A Knill, P Dillon — G Scott, D Garner, S Thompson (sub: D Hudson, 45), P Hurst (sub: A Roscoe, 45), C Beech — J White (sub: G Mammdale, 58), L Glover

Referee: K Hill



Allied Dunbar Premiership: Penaud looks admirable replacement for retired Lynagh

Confident Saracens show strength

Saracens.....34
Northampton.....7

By David Hands

IF IT was a worthwhile investment you were looking for at Watford yesterday, *Saracens provided it.* The cup holders passed the summer carefully spending their money and against Northampton — one of the dark horses for the Allied Dunbar Premiership — they worked *all* three of their exotic new purchases *into the limelight.*

There was a comforting solidity about Saracens, a direct carry-over from the squad that carried off the Tetley's Bitter Cup in May and might have achieved the Premiership title too. Confidence was swelling through their ranks as early as the first quarter, when their backs *ripped apart a defence so flimsy* that Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said they tackled like schoolboys.

"Write us off at your peril," McGeechan added. He knows the quality of his players but he has also spent too many seasons at Franklin's Gardens watching the sum of *the parts failing to add up to expectations.* There is an immediacy about Saracens *that he must envy, most visibly demonstrated by Alain* Penaud taking to the Premiership like a duck to water.

There are no bigger boots to fill at Saracens than those of the retired Michael Lynagh at No 10; *Penaud struck three sweet, left-footed* touch kicks in the first quarter *and brought a deft, physical touch* to everything he did, even though a blow to the head in the first half caused him to forget all the backs moves. Perhaps all teams should play by instinct instead of by numbers.

By the interval, *Penaud had* scored his first competitive try for *his new club, as had his new colleagues.* Troy Coker and Jeremy Thomson. Coker, once of Harlequins, is an old hand at league rugby but has lost little of his imposing presence; Thomson, 31, and whose mother comes from Watford, is accustomed to Super 12 rugby with Natal and found his feet with admirable rapidity.

Francois Pienaar, his new coach, *believes that two years ago Thom*son's form was such that he should *have won his international cap.* Had he been slightly bulkier, or playing under a more enlightened coach, he might have done. Now, though, he is set fair to replace the departed Philippe Sella, taking his try with a forthright approach that Northampton could only admire.

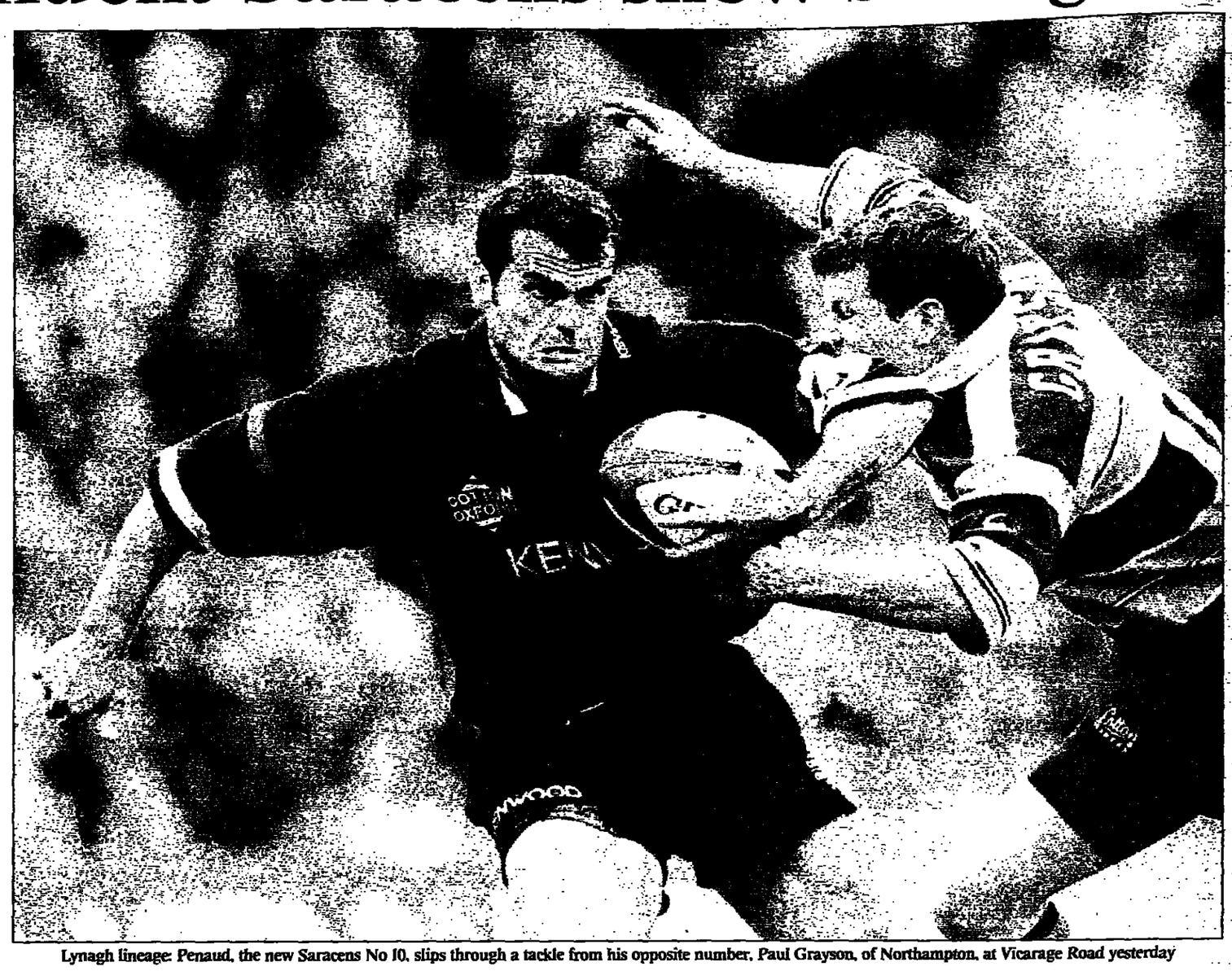
In the first minutes they flattered to deceive, only to engineer Saracens's lead by their own inept play. *At a time when Craig Yandell was* in the sin-bin, the 14 of Saracens scored 13 points. The two Northampton props fell offside to give Gavin Johnson two easy penalty goals and when Paul Grayson was tardy with his clearance, Penaud charged the kick down and romped through to score.

Nothing Northampton could do worked for them. Running with admirable ambition but little tactical sense from their own 22, Northamp*ton lost possession and Saracens* swept away down the right. Penaud broke from the ruck and sent Coker to the line, leaving Saracens 20 points ahead in as many minutes.

When Thomson crossed for a third try, a deluge of points threatened to wash Northampton away. That it did not happen was the result of Northampton tightening their defence, slowing down Saracens' ball and disrupting their *rhythm, though a flurry of fists early* in the second half cost George Chuter and Jon Phillips ten minutes in the sin-bin for an incident in which Tim Rodber was involved.

Yet still Northampton could take no advantage of their hard-working lineout and increasingly-weighty scrum. They allowed Paul Wallace to snaffle ruck ball in his own half. Penaud accelerated the move and Kyran Bracken gave Johnson the try. Three times Sara*cens forced the pace, only to be de*nied five metres from the line, but Northampton finally found their way to the other end, thanks to the incorrigible Matt Dawson, who broke from a tapped penalty and had enough speed and guile to hold off the cover for a 35- metre run to the posts. Would that his colleagues had offered the same qualities.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Penaud (13min), Coker (20), Thomson (26), Johnson (61) **Conversions:** Johnson 4 **Penalty goals:** Johnson 2 (9, 11) **Northampton: Try:** Dawson (64) **Conversion:** Grayson.
SCORING SEQUENCE: (Saracens first) 3- 0, 6-0, 13-0, 20-0, 27-0 (half-time), 34-0, 34- 7, .
SARACENS: G Johnson; B Daniel, J Thomson, S Ravenscroft, M Singer (rep. R Wallace, 78); A Penaud, K Bracken, R Grau, G Chuter (sin bin 50-60, rep G Botterman, 73), P Wallace (rep. B Reddy, 62), C Yandell (sin-bin 4-14), D Greenacre, T Coker (rep: Botterman, 10-20; rep: B Cole, 62), R Hill, A Diprose.
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, C Moir, D Dantiacq, A Northey, B Cohen; P Grayson (rep. A Hepher, 64), M Dawson; G Pagel, F Mendez (rep C Johnsson, 70), M Hynes, J Phillips (sin-bin, 50-60), R Metcalfe, P Lam, A Pountney, T Rodber.
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)



Lynagh lineage: Penaud, the new Saracens No 10, slips through a tackle from his opposite number, Paul Grayson, of Northampton, at Vicarage Road yesterday

New-look Sale show some old bad habits

London Scottish 25
Manchester Sale.....20

By Alison Kervin

WITH new shirts, a new sponsor and a selection of new players, newly promoted London Scottish ran out for their first game in their new *home against newly renamed* Manchester Sale on Saturday. Everything was new. The two sides had clearly spent the summer locked away with focus groups and flip charts intent on "rebranding" and "repackaging" their "product".

There was certainly no early evidence that the summer had been *spent in intensive training or team* building sessions. Sale had a shocking opening quarter as London Scottish amassed 16 points before the break.

A converted try and three penalties took them to their tally. The *penalties were the beginning of a* 20-point haul for Iain McAusland, the Australian-born full back, whose boot destroyed Sale.

The first-half try, London Scottish's only one of the game, came from Kenny Milligan. He received a pass from Jan Bonney after Simon Binns kicked through. Milligan *almost lost the try when he was* tackled before the line, but a leap, *and a stretch, took him over.*

Sale disappeared at half time with Graham Dawe, the player/coach, looking furious and not about to whisper sweet nothings to his team-mates. They emerged in the second half an infinitely stronger side, scoring three tries — two from Richard Smith — and one penalty try.

London Scottish were naturally delighted with their victory, but they would be unwise to be over confident. Next week they play Leicester, who will be infinitely less generous than Sale.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Try: Milligan (29min) Conversion McAusland **Penalty goals:** McAusland 6 (1, 32, 42, 58, 62, 73) **Sale: Tries:** R Smith 2 (46, 55), penalty try (66) **Conversion:** Howarth. **Penalty goal:** Howarth (72).
SCORING SEQUENCE (London Scottish first): *3-0, 8-0, 10-0, 13-0, 16-0 (half time), 16-5, 16-7, 16-12, 19-12, 22-12, 22-17, 22-20, 25-20*
LONDON SCOTTISH: I McAusland; K Milligan, R Davies, J Bonney (rep R Erikson, 63min), C Sharman, S Binns, J Easterby, P Johnstone, D Cummins, P Burnell, E Jones, M Watson (rep. M McAtamney, 54), S Fenn, R Hunter (capt) (rep: C Tarbuck, 63), S Holmes (rep T Davies, 68).
SALE: S Howarth, M Mooney, S Davidson, C Yates, D O'Cunningham; J Bassendell (rep J Devereux, 69), R Smith (rep K Ellis, 62), D Bell (rep: A Smith, 51), S Diamond (rep D Geraghty, 51), P Smith (rep. P Winstanley, 51), S Rawlaus, C Murphy (rep. D Baldwin, 53), P Anglesea, J Machacek, P Sanderson
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

Exiles overcome Headingley hype

Leeds 18
London Welsh 20

By a Correspondent

LONDON Welsh cheerfully ignored the Headingley hype to become only the second side to win at the ground since Leeds *moved in 20 months ago.* Despite a summer marketing onslaught that spawned Sunday rugby, a new name and will see the arrival, in October, of one of rugby league's biggest names, Wendell Sailor, only 1,152 people turned up to see the defeat.

The Exiles held the edge in the tight while Mike Beckham, Leeds's 19-stone prop signed from Glasgow Hawks, was given a painful examina*tion on his debut by Ian Buck*ett. London Welsh outscored Leeds by *three tries* — all in the first half — to two.

The first was a cracker from 60 metres created by Adam Jones and finished by Chris Whittaker, the Canadian lock. Rowland Phillips and Andy Currier combined for the second, with the former Widnes centre crossing, before Luke Jones took a quick penalty to score the third.

*Simon Easterby, Jones's op*posite number, produced a car*bon copy late on for Leeds,* whose first try had been a close-range effort from Mike Cawthorn after ten minutes. But missing the cutting edge that five months ago had destroyed London Welsh 44-5, Leeds were left to hope that a snap dropped goal from Colin Stephens could save them in injury time. It went wide.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Cawthorn (10min), Easterby (72) **Conversions:** Tupuiotu, **Penalty goals:** Tupuiotu 2 (5, 52) **London Welsh: Tries:** Whittaker (18), Cumer (19), L Jones (34) **Conversions:** Pearce. **Penalty goal:** Pearce (61).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Leeds first): 3-0, 10-0, 10-7, 10-12, 10-17 (half time), 13-17, 13-20, 18-20
LEEDS: Tupuiotu; Middleton, Emmerson, Rhodes, Kirkby; Stephens, Cawthorn; Faulkner (rep Shelly 62min), Lutman, Beckham (rep Thomas 74) Radecanu, P Jones (rep. Griffiths 64), Foune, Easterby, Reid.
LONDON WELSH: A Jones, Storey, Cumer, Dawes, Giraud, Pearce, Edwards; Buckett (rep. Holmes 13-15) Olney (rep French 76), Milward (rep: Holmes 74), Sage, Whittaker, Alexander, L Jones, Phillips
Referee: N Yates

RUGBY LEAGUE: TITLE-CHASING WARRIORS PILE UP THE POINTS TO GO CLEAR

Wigan run riot to sink sorry Sharks

Wigan Warriors 58
Hull Sharks.....6

By a Correspondent

MEMORIES may well have strayed back to Wigan's victo*ry in the Middlesex Sevens* two years ago as they produced a scintillating handling exhibition to overwhelm Hull with 12 tries at Central Park yesterday and regain their two-point advantage over *Leeds in the JB Super League.*

On a record-breaking afternoon, spoilt only by the season's lowest league attendance of 7,920, Wigan registered their biggest winning margin of the season. Andy *Farrell kicked his hundredth* league goal of the campaign and Gary Connolly scored his hundredth try for the club.

"As long as you weren't from Hull you couldn't help but enjoy that," John Monie, *the Wigan coach, said.* "The pleasing thing from our point of view was that we did it without Neil Cowie, Dennis Betts and Danny Moore who, with Andy Farrell, are the cornerstone of our side."

It would have been even worse had Farrell not missed seven of 12 attempts at goal, yet it was Farrell's perfectly-struck short restarts, another echo from rugby union, that posed Hull problems.

"Before the match I'd said to Andy that if it worked well once, *we should do it twice,*" said Monie. "And I suppose he felt if it worked well twice, *he should do it three times.*"

In fact, from seven of the 12 restarts Wigan ended up claiming the ball. It was one of several tactical experiments Monie revealed that they had tried with the play-offs in *mind.*

These failures on Hull's part, plus an alarming number of turnovers, merely compounded the problems.

Henry Paul was Wigan's linchpin, ducking, diving and weaving *his way through* half-hearted tackling and *switching the direction of at*tack to confound the opposition.

Ironically, Hull had opened the scoring with a Steve Prescott penalty after ten minutes and another four had elapsed before Paul set the Wigan bandwagon rolling. By half time Gilmour had also gone in twice, and was followed home by Farrell and Tony *Smith.*

Only a consolation try by Fili Seru interrupted the Wigan procession in the second half as Connolly, Paul, Mark Bell, Jason Robinson twice and Paul Johnson com*pleted Wigan's celebration.*

SCORERS: Wigan: Tries: Paul (2), Gilmour (2), Farrell, Smith, Connolly, Bell, Robinson (2), Radlinski, Johnson Goals: Farrell (5) **Hull:** Try: Seru Goal: Prescott
WIGAN: K Radlinski, J Robinson, G Connolly, P Johnson, M Bell, H Paul, T Smith, T O'Connor, R McCormack, T Mesiroy, S Haughton, L Gilmour, A Farrell Subs J Clarke, S Holgate, A Ishurwood, R Ball.
HULL: S Prescott, F Seru, A Hunte, L Campbell, D Baildon; G Lester, C Murdock; A Ireland, D Stephenson, J Leatham; S Booth, S Craven, R Nolan. Subs: J Smith, H Okoacmo, J Tomu, D Busby
Referee: S Cansor (Yorkshire)

Sheffield concede chance has gone

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN KEAR, the Sheffield Eagles coach, yesterday conceded defeat in his side's bid to make the Super League playoffs. The Eagles crashed to their third defeat in four *matches when they lost 33-16* to Halifax at The New Shay. Jamie Bloem grabbed a second-half hat-trick of tries after David Bouveng had crossed twice in the opening 11 minutes.

The South Yorkshiremen now have only a mathematical *chance of reaching the top five.* "Our chance has gone now," Kear said. "We're just going to try and finish as high as possible and blood some young kids. I felt while we had a chance of making the five I *should stick to the tried and* trusted but it might be time to give one or two people their debuts in the coming weeks."

Sheffield were without six *first-team regulars and the ab*sence of Paul Broadbent and *Steve Molloy, in particular, hit* the visitors hard.

John Pendlebury, the Halifax coach, was pleased with the way his side all but sealed victory with a whirlwind opening. They led 16-2 after 27 minutes and Pendlebury, whose team bounced back from last week's 36-6 defeat at St Helens, said: "We set our stall out early on. We defended well and caused them a lot of trouble when we had possession in the first 30 minutes."

Halifax, who lost Damian Gibson with a badly-gashed head, need one point from their final three games to seal a third place.

Warrington marked the hundredth anniversary of *their Wilderspool Stadium by* scoring seven tries in a 36-8 victory over the bottom club, Huddersfield. Warrington took advantage of James Bunyan being sent to the sin-bin after only ten minutes by scoring two tries through Lee Briers and Mark Forster.

Castleford's 30-12 home win over Salford Reds gave them their first Super League double of the season. Salford, unbeaten in their previous three *games, never looked like con*tinuing their good run as Danny Orr and Brad Davis both scored two tries.

Bobbie Goulding kicked a *penalty for Huddersfield but* Warrington hit back with two tries in four minutes through Mike Eagar and Mike Pechey.

Warrington took only three minutes of the second half to go further ahead when Steve McCurrie crossed after a break by Danny Farrar to *open up a 24-2 lead.*

Andy Cheetham scored a consolation try for Huddersfield before Warrington added two tries in the last nine minutes through Eagar and Farrar.

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Allied Dunbar Premiership: Champions suffer heavy opening-day defeat as new force emerges

Revived Leicester looking good bet

Leicester 49
Harlequins 15

By Alan Pearey

THE bookmakers who set up stall at Welford Road can expect good business on the six subsequent home games of their trial stay. The Leicester public never lack faith in their team and initial evidence suggests a surge of Tigers' title betting slips will be traded in the coming weeks.

With a new management and playing structure, relaxed licensing laws and even somewhere to park your bike, Leicester are a club on the move. Richard Cockerill, the Leicester hooker, said: "We're not bothered by what people say. We have a better squad than last year and team spirit is outstanding."

Leicester rarely seemed to convert pressure into points under Bob Dwyer, the former coach, but the demolition of Harlequins on Saturday saw sparkling approach play finished in ruthless splendour.

Seven unanswered tries, including a magnificent team effort ended by Leon Lloyd, brought a big grin to the face of Dean Richards, the club's rugby manager, who must relish the talent at his disposal. Leicester's new signings, Tim Stimpson, with some booming kicks, and Pat Howard, who linked superbly with Joel Stransky, won the hearts of the locals but the less heralded Nnamdi Ezulike and Derek Jelley played an equal part.

With their lettered jerseys consigned to the past, Ezulike, the Nigerian-born wing, became the first numbered Tiger to score a try in the fifth minute. Darren O'Leary's reckless pass was the prelude to a pushover try by Austin Healey, the England wing strengthening his case for selection in his club position of scrum-half with a dazzling display.

Leicester's progress was hampered only by the flawless goalkicking of John Schuster, the Harlequins reserve stand-off, and the ten-minute absence of Cockerill, who was sent to the sin-bin on the hour after persistent infringement by his side.

Quins, who fielded six debutants, will not panic at finding themselves bottom of the Allied Dunbar Premiership One table after one outing. But it was easy to understand the concern of John Gallagher, their director of rugby. He said: "You can make excuses, but it was a poor performance. We must stay positive and get through this together. We've got a huge improvement to make in a short period of time."

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Ezulike (5 min), Healey (17), Cockerill (38), Lloyd 2 (48,56), Back (76), Stransky (80). **Conversions:** Stransky 4 **Penalties:** Stransky 2 (40, 72) **Harlequins: Penalties:** Schuster 5 (20, 30, 40, 62, 66)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 5-0, 12-0, 12-3, 12-6, 19-6, 22-6, 22-9, (ht) 29-9, 34-9, 34-12, 34-14, 37-15, 42-15, 49-15
LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd, S Potter (rep: J Overend 78), P Howard, N Ezulike (rep: D Lougheed 73), J Stransky, A Healey; D Jelley (rep: G Rowntree 73), R Cockerill, D Garforth, M Hitchcock (captain), F Van Heerden (rep: N Fletcher 78), P Gustard (rep: J Ackerman 61-71), N Back, M Corry
HARLEQUINS: D Officer, D O'Leary, S Power, P Mensah (rep: V Going 57), D Luger, J Schuster, H Hamee, J Leonard, K Wood, G Halpin, G Morgan, B Dawson, G Bibby, R Jenkins, Z Brooks (captain)
Referee: Ashley Rowden (Berkshire)

Richmond reap rewards of wise investment

Richmond 41
Newcastle 29

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THESE are uncertain times for Newcastle. A year ago they marched enthusiastically into a new Allied Dunbar Premiership and swept Bath away. On Saturday, as champions, they were themselves dismantled, in the same way that the dream of Sir John Hall, their owner, for a new multisports power in the North East is struggling for sustenance.

How ironic that they should have stumbled to defeat in the magnificent surroundings of the Madejski Stadium at Reading, into which Richmond have bought. John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, will look at the quality of performance in the knowledge that his squad took half a season to come together during 1997-98. The club's board will look at the crowd of 9,530, at least a third of whom came on free-ticket schemes, and consider that little more than 3,000 of that number would have been allowed into their old Athletic Ground home this season, that Newcastle travel with only a handful of supporters and that this Saturday, Gloucester's hordes are due to make the short trip up the M4.

"We have invited them to come and see our Shed," Tony Hallett, the Richmond chief executive, said with the happiness of one whose target figure of an 8,000 attendance had been exceeded. Kingston's target is for the playing investment made last season to start coming good. "I don't think we underperformed," he said. "I had never coached in the premier league before and none of our players, with the exception of Ben Clarke, had played in it.

"We recruited youngsters, high-quality players whom we believed would make it. Rob [Andrew] recruited for experience and success. There are a lot of older men in the Newcastle side now and they were always going to have to rebuild. We have done things more gradually. If you don't build on bricks, the whole thing will come down around you."

Kingston believes his foundations are in place whereas Newcastle now are making a virtue of necessity by proffering the skills of Ross Beattie (20) and Alan Chilton (19) — both home-brewed — as the way to go. That will be good news for national coaches such as Clive Woodward and Graham Henry, who were at the Madejski Stadium (Beattie is English, Chilton Welsh), but such youngsters were entitled to have a better example set them by Newcastle's present

Results 40

generation, which has never looked more anonymous in the area which powered them forward last season, back row and half back.

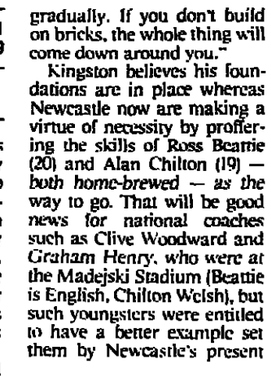
Only Andrew himself, playing in jersey No 12 but paying lip service to the notion that Jonathan Wilkinson was the designated fly half, lived up to reputation. Elsewhere, Richmond squeezed the life out of a side conceding more points and tries in the first Premiership match than in any game they played last season. They dominated the set-pieces and forced any number of turnovers, leading directly to the penalties that allowed Richmond into the danger zone.

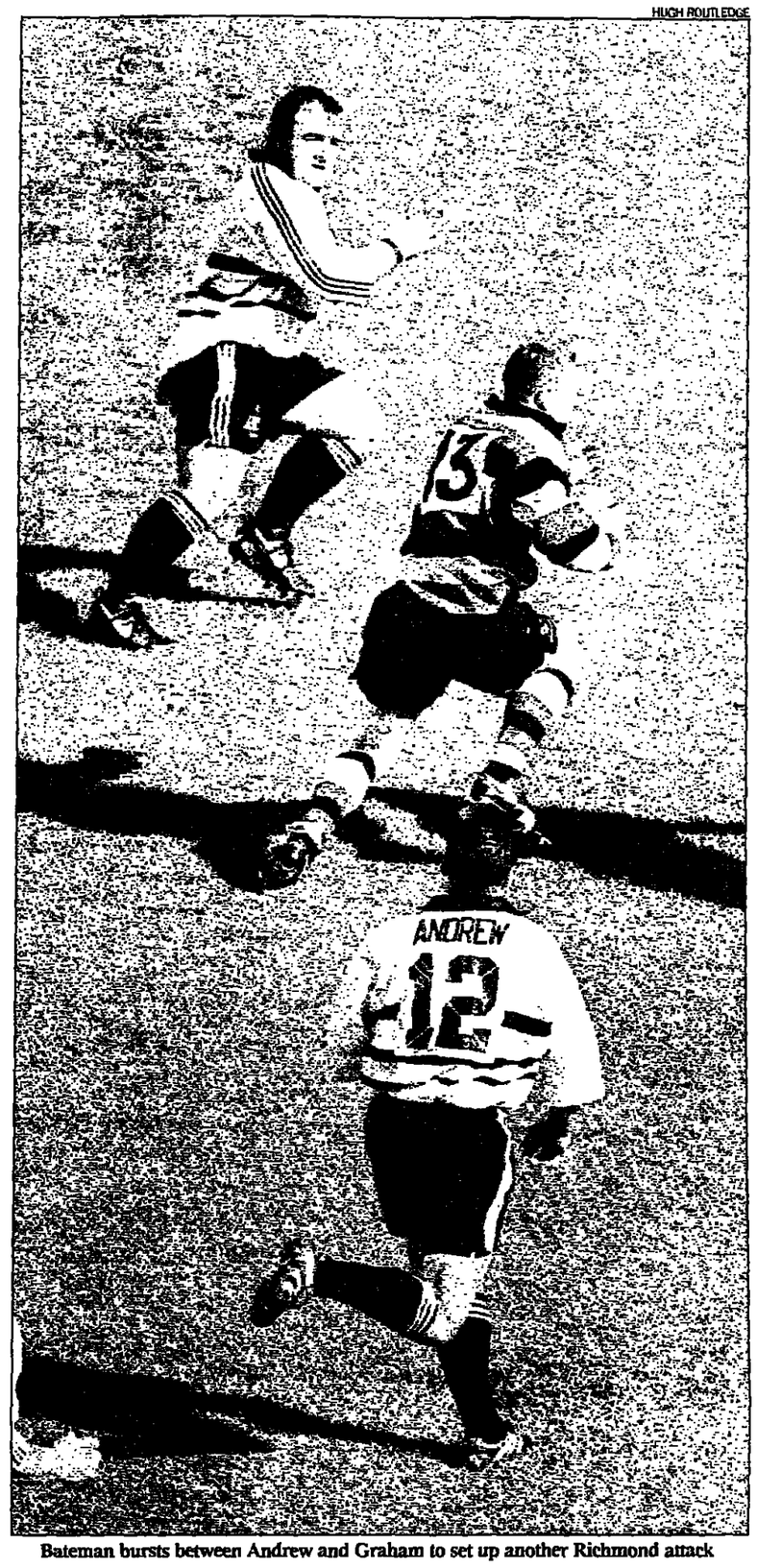
Three tries came from close-range lineouts, a fourth from a scrum after a lineout at a time when Barry Williams had not found his range when throwing in. Newcastle creaked badly, with Paul Van-Zandvliet absent injured and two loosehead props on the field. They will be reinforced next month with the arrival from South Africa of Marius Hurter, but Kingston, a former prop himself, positively crooned over the display of the tight-head, Darren Crompton.

Agustin Pichot is ideally equipped to take advantage of such dominance. The Argentina scrum half took time to settle when he arrived at Richmond a year ago. A move to Leicester was dangled before him, but now he has taken up a business studies course at Brunel University, he is fit, he is confident and there will be little better to admire this season than the break that drew two defenders and the adroit pass out of the tackle that created the space for Allan Bateman to score Richmond's third try on the interval.

It was Newcastle's plan to win swift ball and move it wide. Not until the final quarter, when Richmond were 31-15 to the good, did they do so, which negated any genuine examination of Wilkinson's skills at game direction. The youngster is to be his club's first-choice goalkicker this season, ahead of Andrew, in which case he doubtless admired the competent striking of Adrian Davies, who embellished Richmond's scoreline when they needed it most. The trick for Davies and his colleagues is to do it again, and again, and there is little reason to suppose they will not.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Hutton 2 (48min, 57), Clarke (11), Pichot (30), Bateman (40), Brown (68) **Conversions:** Davies 4 **Penalty goals:** Davies (73). **Newcastle: Tries:** Naylor (33), Walton (48), Tuigamala (76), Wen (82) **Conversions:** Wilkinson, Andrew 2. **Penalty goal:** Wilkinson (37).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 7-0, 14-0, 14-5, 14-8, 19-8 (half-time), 26-8, 26-15, 31-15, 38-15, 41-15, 41-22, 41-29.
RICHMOND: M Pini, S Brown, A Bateman, M Deane, D Chapman, A Davies (rep: E Va'a, 73min), A Pichot; D McFarland, B Williams, D Crompton (rep: J Davies, 67), C Quinnell (rep: A Codling, 73, rep: A Cuthbert, 77), C Gilles, R Hutton (rep: L Cabannis, 10-18, 65), A Vander (sin-bin, 78), B Clarke
NEWCASTLE: S Legg, J Naylor, V Tuigamala, J Wilkinson (rep: M Shaw, 66), T Underwood, R Andrew, G Armstrong, N Popplewell, R Nesdale, G Graham, G Archer, G Wen, S O'Neill, R Arnold (rep: P Walton, 40, rep: R Beattie, 80), D Ryan
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)


Clarke: experience


HUGH ROUTLEDGE
Bateman bursts between Andrew and Graham to set up another Richmond attack

Irish fall foul of sin-bin ruling

Gloucester 29
London Irish 22

By Michael Aylwin

WHENEVER London Irish lose, with their do-or-die spirit, it is usually a fairly tragic experience, but their defeat at Gloucester on Saturday seemed particularly unfair. The Exiles displayed all the traditional Irish qualities (if fewer of their passports) but, for all their fire and athleticism, they were undone by, among other things, the latest controversial innovation: the sin-bin and its various side effects.

Peter Rogers, the London Irish loose head, who signed from Gautagne this summer, suffered from the new clampdown, as did his team-mates. Indeed, his fortunes mirrored those of his team. He was rampant early on, his furious drives in the loose helping the Irish to secure the position from which they scored the opening try in the fifth minute through Matt Jones.

However, in the fifteenth minute, having killed the ball on the deck, Rogers was warned by the referee of his imminent departure from the field. He only had to wait two minutes before the threat became reality. After a series of disrupted Gloucester scrums close to the Irish line, the inevitably penalty try was awarded. Rogers was deemed to have collapsed the final scrum and Steve Savage, the referee, sent him to the sin-bin.

Rogers returned ten minutes later but then, in the 34th minute, Mapletoft took a quick tap penalty in his own 22 and ran straight at Rogers, who instinctively tackled him. Within the sacred ten yards, Rogers had infringed again and Savage, true to his name, sent him off, this time for good.

Dick Best, the London Irish director of rugby, just about retained his powers of diplomacy after the game. He welcomed the sin-bin as a progressive innovation, but predicted a month of chaos as players and referees come to terms with it.

"Sometimes you have to go backwards to go forwards," he said, "but unfortunately it is us who have gone backwards today. We have actually lost a game and two points, as far as I'm concerned, by a somewhat erratic decision."

Gloucester suffered a sin-bin dismissal themselves in the second half, when Mapletoft was caught shirt tugging, but the timing of the little maestro, who scored 24 of his team's 29 points, was immaculate as he returned to stroke home the penalty that Gloucester had just been awarded.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Penalty try (17 min), Mapletoft (72) **Conversions:** Mapletoft 2 **Penalties:** Mapletoft 5 (7, 22, 37, 63, 69) **London Irish: Try:** Jones (5 min) **Conversion:** Woods **Penalties:** Woods (5)(10, 40, 50, 55, 80)
SCORING SEQUENCE: 0-7, 3-7, 3-10, 10-10, 13-10, 16-10, 16-13, 16-18 (half time), 18-19, 19-19, 22-19, 28-19, 29-22
GLOUCESTER: C Catling, B Johnson, T Fanolua, R Tombs, P Sant-Andre, M Mapletoft, S Benton, T Woodman, N McCarthy (rep: C Forley 67mins), P Vickery (rep: A Deacon 73), R Fidler, D Sims (rep: M Cornwell 67), S Dymoh, N Carter, S Devereux
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, J Bishop, B Venter, N Burrows (rep: R Todd 67mins), N Woods, M Jones (rep: J Brown 79), P Richards, P Rogers, R Kirke (rep: M Howe 50), R Hardwick (rep: K Fullman 50), N Harvey, M O'Kelly, J Boer (rep: M Worsley, 17-27, 34), K Dawson, K Spicer
Referee: S Savage (Warwickshire)

Clinical Bath take mystery out of the game

Bath 36
Wasps 27

By Mark Souster

RUGBY'S recurring theme in recent times has been that of confusion, so it was of little surprise that the advent of the new season was marked by more of the same at The Recreation Ground. Would Bath be in Europe? Had or had not yellow cards been dispensed with? Had Kenny Logan been pushed by Kirsty Young, his newsreader girlfriend, or had he jumped? Add to that the fact that Wasps had to change into an orange kit before kick off because Bath's new strip is predominantly black, and questions about Tony Swift's new role after a boardroom reshuffle, and you soon understand why such an air of uncertainty pervaded.

First things first and Europe which, as reigning continental champions, is of particular interest to Bath. Andy Robinson, their coach, professed his ignorance at claims made by Vernon Pugh that English clubs could well be in the European Cup this year, but a twinkle in his eye suggested he may know more.

Both he and Nigel Melville, his counterpart, were astonished when, in the second minute, Bertie Smith, the Irish referee, showed Martin Haag and Paul Volley yellow cards after an early altercation. According to the Rugby Football Union yellow cards no longer exist: either white or red should be produced. The situation became farcical when, after half an hour, Joe Worsley was shown a white card and sent to the sin bin for pulling a shirt at a lineout. Melville could not hide his disdain. "We spend all summer talking about what we are going to do and how to interpret new regulations then they get an Irish referee," he said.

Worsley's temporary dismissal, ten minutes before half time, proved crucial. Wasps were deservedly 14-10 ahead, but Bath scented blood and made their advantage tell when, from a scrum on the 22, Jerry Guscott danced outside Nick Greenstock for the first of his two tries. Bath were never behind from then.

As for Logan he had woken on Saturday morning to find himself front-page, rather than back-page, news. He dodged tabloid reporters after the game in much the same manner as he had beaten a floundering Bath defence in the seventeenth minute. When he collected a loose pass from Rob Henderson on the 22, a try seemed a remote possibility, but the Scot put his head down and forced his way past three would-be tacklers to touch down. Logan insisted he had ended his relationship with Ms Young, and had done so to save his rugby career. Having moved from Stirling he admitted London's bright lights had turned his head: he had lost form and his international place. Jim Telfer, the Scotland director of rugby, who was running the rule over the Scottish contingent, would have been impressed by Logan's rediscovered focus.

Despite committing a plethora of errors Wasps looked a far more purposeful side than last season and, with a little more guile and creativity in midfield, should have won. But they were hindered by a poor performance from Gareth Rees, the fly half, who was off the pace in mind and body and who missed two straightforward conversions. Bath simply took their chances. They relied on the razor-sharp instincts of Guscott and an imperious goalkicking performance by Mike Catt. His tally was 21 points from five penalties and three conversions and he did not miss a trick. The applause for his efforts was bettered only by that which greeted the return of Kevin Yates after his six-month ban. The crowd rose as one when Bath's prodigal son trotted on as a 58th-minute replacement for David Hilton.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Guscott 2 (40min, 53), Peters (12) **Conversions:** Catt 3 **Penalty goals:** Catt 5 (3, 41, 64, 76, 78) **Wasps: Tries:** Logan (17), Leota (61), Worsley (71) **Penalty goals:** Rees 4 (8, 24, 33, 57).
SCORING SEQUENCE: Bath first: 3-0, 3-3, 8-3, 10-3, 10-8, 10-11, 10-14, 17-14 (half-time), 20-14, 27-14, 27-17, 27-22, 30-22, 30-27, 33-27, 36-27
BATH: I Balshaw; I Evans, P de Glanville (rep: V Maggs 45-51, 75min), J Guscott, A Adebayo, M Catt, S Hatley (rep: A Nicol 76), D Hilton (rep: K Yates, 58), M Regan (rep: A Long 29), V Ubogu, M Haag, N Redman, N Thomas, B Stumham, E Peters
WASPS: J Lewsey; S Roser, N Greenstock (rep: L Scrase 48), R Henderson, K Logan; G Rees, M Friday (rep: A Gomarsall 54), D Molloy (rep: A Black 54), T Leota, W Green, M Weedon, A Reed, E Rollin, P Volley, J Worsley
Referee: B Smith

Swansea show right attitude

Swansea 32
West Hartlepool 26

By Gerald Davies

BOTH clubs are on what in other circumstances is euphemistically called a learning curve, a phrase normally churned out when matters are going badly; as an interpretational spin on failure, accentuating the positive, not the negative. But clearly it is precisely this kind of incline that these two clubs are on.

This is West Hartlepool's introductory season in the Allied Dunbar Premiership's top division. Having emerged from the first division, this is a big step for them to take. They admitted yesterday that the standards of last season will not be enough.

In beating their visitors on Saturday, Swansea achieved little but they are not daunted by the task that lies ahead. The clubs with all the heavyweight credentials and reputation will soon arrive on their doorstep. Rather, they look forward with anticipation.

The league in Wales has grown somewhat stagnant, as indicated by the continued lack of a league sponsor, although by all accounts there are one or two likely patrons waiting in the wings. From now on every Saturday offers a diet of keen competition. Swansea are therefore about to find out whether they have the stomach and the talent for the challenge.

West Hartlepool proved a tough nut to crack, if they ever could be said to have cracked at all with Swansea's winning score coming in the third minute of injury time.

Vile had given the visitors a one-point lead at 23-22 after 15 minutes of the second half, a lead they kept for the next 20 minutes. Lee Davies then took Swansea into the lead with a penalty before Vile restored it two minutes later. That seemed to be it with defeat staring Swansea ignominiously in the face in this first of their rebellious outings. Going into injury time, Taylor and Arnold made the initial thrust before Simon Davies, who had scored in the first half and had hardly touched the ball in the meantime, sprinted for 40 metres for the winning try.

The move seemed to prove another point, too. Swansea, in the absence of Arwel Thomas and Scott Gibbs, who are playing in the Commonwealth Games, could not move the ball away from a ten-metre radius around the forwards. For all their possession, there was no variety. The visitors' defence was sound. It had to be, as their scrum creaked.

Yet Swansea could well learn a lesson from West Hartlepool's midfield play. Greaves and Connolly, on the few chances they had, always contrived to create space, especially for John to intervene from the blind-side wing. This was the way Bishop's try was manufactured in the 26th minute. Vile kicked two penalties — one on either side of Davies's first try.

Swansea had taken the lead in the first half with a penalty try, after which both Brewer and Parks were sin-binned. Fuller followed a similar path in the second half.

Moriarty's try from a quick penalty, converted by Lee Davies, gave the home team the half-time lead, which the fly half extended with a penalty after the interval. Brewer's try restored the visitors' confidence to stay in the contest.

If excitement was generated towards the end with the lead changing hands three times, it was a match generally of inferior standards.

Swansea, however, were pleased with the attendance of 4,000 — a thousand more than they averaged last season. With Newcastle arriving in a fortnight's time, and the other big guns later, Swansea can feel optimistic.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Penalty try (10min), S Davies 2 (17, 83), P Moriarty (28) **Conversions:** L Davies (3). **Penalty goals:** L Davies 2 (42, 74) **West Hartlepool: Tries:** H Bishop (26min), M Brewer (46) **Conversions:** S Vile (2) **Penalty goals:** S Vile 4 (13, 20, 55, 78).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Swansea first): 7-0, 7-3, 12-3, 12-6, 12-13, 19-13 (half-time), 22-13, 22-20, 22-23, 25-23, 25-26, 22-28
SWANSEA: M Back, R Rees, M Taylor, A Clement (rep: A Lawson, 31min), S Davies, L Davies, R Jones, D Morris, G Jenkins, B Evans, P Moriarty, P Arnold, T Maullin (rep: L Jones, 72), D Thomas, C Charvis
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell; H Bishop, P Greaves, J Connolly, S John, S Vile, T Nuualitie, S Parks (rep: B Cullinane, 63), A Peacock, P Beal, J Fontun, B Fuller, R Shrader (rep: S Cassidy, 72), D Hyde, M Brewer
Referee: A Ware


Simon Davies: two tries

Referees to join Welsh breakaway

Bedford 10
Cardiff 27

By Mark Baldwin

DAVID PRICE, the rebel official in charge of the Bedford-Cardiff fixture on Saturday, predicted that more referees will break away from the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU).

He also claimed that the Welsh public is fully behind clubs, like Cardiff and Swansea, who are standing up for their beliefs in a British League as the best way forward for Wales.

Price said a panel of eight referees would soon be in place to officiate the Anglo-Welsh club matches involving Cardiff and Swansea, that they would be paid by the home clubs in each case, and that a sponsorship deal for kit is close to completion.

He said: "I thought the game went well, and the only thing I said beforehand was that both teams have a responsibility to give the public entertainment.

"I have no gripe with the WRU, but if my action helps in the process of forcing a British league then I think it will be worthwhile. We are certainly not out for personal gain — our payments will be in line with WRU rates."

Cooke plans cash check

GEOFF COOKE, Bedford's chief executive, will seek assurances today from Frank Warren, the chairman, over the latter's failure to pay players of the newly promoted first division club for five weeks. Warren has promised wage cheques for September 14 but the players need convincing that they should turn out in good faith again for the Premiership One opener away to Sale on Saturday.

Rudi Straeuli's team agreed to shelve a threatened strike in time to take on Cardiff in the first of the controversial Anglo-Welsh friendly matches. The visitors secured victory with three tries in 20 second-half minutes in a contest that was entertaining enough given clinging drizzle.

Cooke, who before the game had ignored a fax from the Welsh Rugby Union imploring his side not to fulfil the fixture, said: "It is too late to worry about sanctions from the Rugby Football Union. Tell me, actually, what we have done? All that happened today was two old clubs opting to play a friendly — as we have done many, many times before.

"I was pleased with the passion and spirit my players showed, but we have some proud people here. The players are the front-line troops but all of us involved at Bedford, on and off the field, are in this together. Frank Warren has told us we will be paid, and that he has been prevented from doing so until now by his court case with Don King. But all the club's directors intend to meet this week to discuss things."

On the field, Bedford's main asset seems, from the evidence of this game, to be the silky, elusive Darragh O'Mahony on the left wing. On the other side of the pitch, Rory Underwood, still fallible under the high ball, failed to burn off Simon Hill when given one chance to thrill a disappointing 1,700 crowd.

SCORERS: Bedford: Try: Howard (66) **Conversion:** Howard. **Penalty goal:** Howard (9) **Cardiff: Tries:** Humphreys (47), Winkle (54), Kacala (68) **Conversions:** Jarvis (3) **Penalty goals:** Jarvis (14, 29)
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first): 3-0, 3-3, 3-6 (half-time), 3-13, 3-20, 10-20, 10-27
BEDFORD: S Howard, R Underwood, A Murdoch, J Ewens (rep: S Brading, 72min), D O'Mahony, T Yapp, C Harrison, N Hailey, J Richards, V Hartland (rep: C Cano, 48), A Duke, S Murray, R Winters, R Straeuli, J Forster
CARDIFF: J Thomas, S Hill, M Wintle, L Davies, L Botham, L Jarvis, R Howley, A Lowis, J Humphreys, S John (rep: L Mustoe, 52), K Stewart, D Jones (rep: J Tait, 52), O Williams, G Kacala, D Baugh (rep: P Young, 79).
Referee: D Price (Caerphilly)

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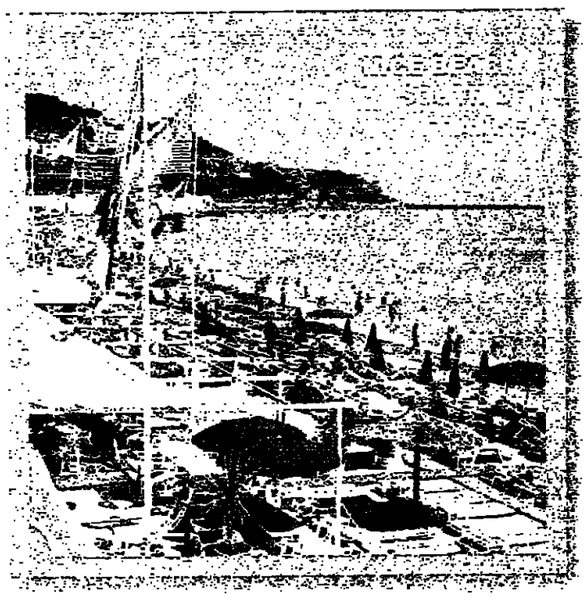
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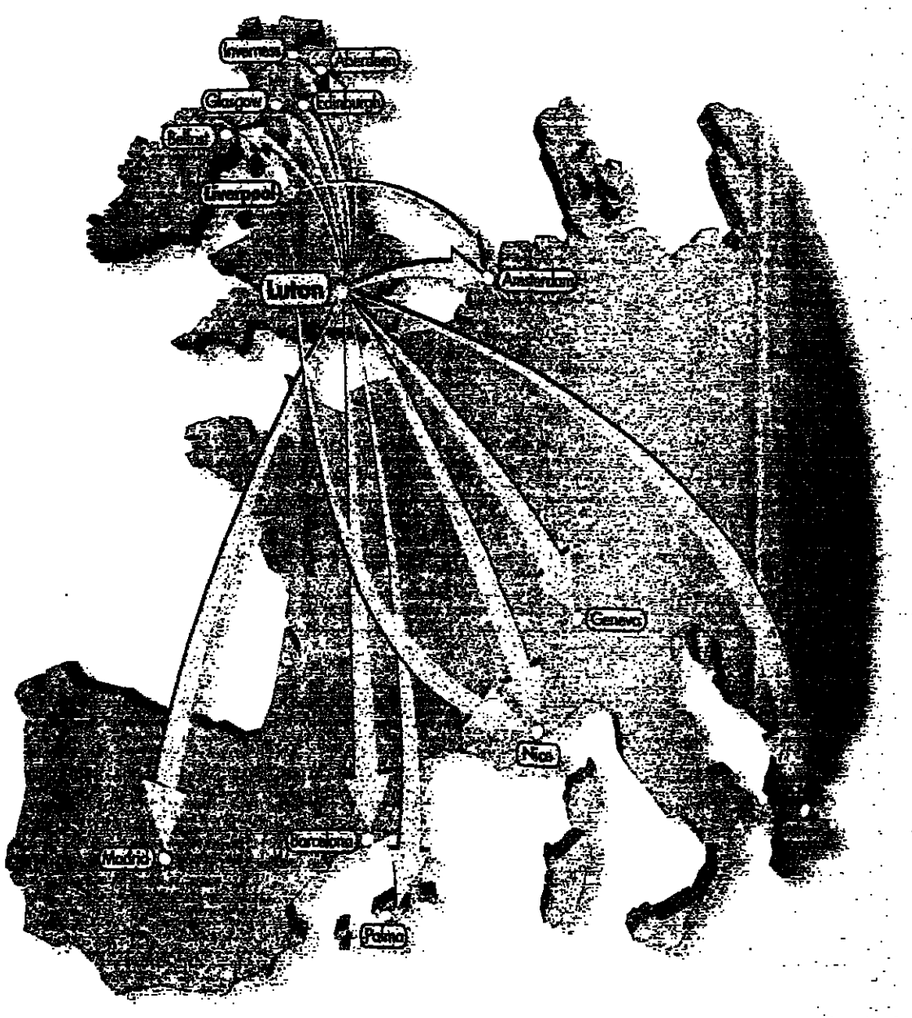
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Days of travel	London Luton to Edinburgh Flt No	Dep	Arr	Edinburgh to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	1	06.40	07.55	2	08.40	07.55
Mon-Thur	3	16.05	17.20	4	08.15	09.30
Mon-Thur	5	19.25	20.40	6	10.00	11.15
Mon-Thur	7	20.50	22.05	8	21.00	22.15
Saturday	9	09.25	10.40	10	07.40	08.55
Saturday	11	17.50	19.05	12	11.00	12.15
Saturday	13	19.20	20.35	14	20.55	22.10

LONDON LUTON-GLASGOW

Days of travel	London Luton to Glasgow Flt No	Dep	Arr	Glasgow to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	15	15.50	17.05	16	06.30	07.45
Mon-Thur	17	19.10	20.25	18	09.50	13.05
Mon-Thur	19	20.30	21.45	20	20.45	22.00
Saturday	21	09.15	10.30	22	07.30	08.45
Saturday	23	16.50	18.05	24	10.50	12.05
Saturday	25	20.30	21.45	26	18.25	19.40

LONDON LUTON-ABERDEEN

Days of travel	London Luton to Aberdeen Flt No	Dep	Arr	Aberdeen to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	27	11.45	13.10	28	13.30	14.55
Saturday	29	12.45	14.10	30	14.30	15.55

LONDON LUTON-INVERNESS

Days of travel	London Luton to Inverness Flt No	Dep	Arr	Inverness to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	31	11.35	13.05	32	13.25	14.50
Saturday	33	12.35	14.05	34	14.25	15.50

LONDON LUTON-AMSTERDAM

Days of travel	London Luton to Amsterdam Flt No	Dep	Arr	Amsterdam to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	201	08.35	09.45	202	09.25	09.35
Mon-Thur	203	10.35	12.45	204	17.50	18.00
Mon-Thur	205	18.55	21.05	206	21.45	21.55
Saturday	207	08.35	09.45	208	09.25	09.35
Saturday	209	10.35	12.45	210	17.50	18.00

LONDON LUTON-NICE

Days of travel	London Luton to Nice Flt No	Dep	Arr	Nice to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	251	10.45	13.50	252	18.45	20.00
Mon-Thur	253	15.00	18.05	254	20.25	21.40
Saturday	255	10.15	13.20	256	18.45	20.00
Saturday	257	15.00	18.05	258	19.55	21.10

LONDON LUTON-BARCELONA

Days of travel	London Luton to Barcelona Flt No	Dep	Arr	Barcelona to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	301	11.10	14.30	302	15.00	16.25
Mon-Thur	303	16.55	20.05	304	20.45	22.10
Saturday	305	07.00	10.10	306	10.50	12.15
Saturday	307	13.05	16.15	308	16.55	18.20

LONDON LUTON-BELFAST

Days of travel	London Luton to Belfast Flt No	Dep	Arr	Belfast to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	351	06.55	08.10	352	08.40	09.55
Mon-Thur	353	11.30	12.45	354	13.15	14.30
Mon-Thur	355	17.20	18.35	356	19.05	20.20
Saturday	357	06.55	08.10	358	08.40	09.55
Saturday	359	11.30	12.45	360	13.15	14.30

LONDON LUTON-PALMA

Days of travel	London Luton to Palma Flt No	Dep	Arr	Palma to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	401	10.55	14.25	402	15.05	16.50
Saturday	403	10.55	14.25	404	15.05	16.50

LONDON LUTON-GENEVA

Days of travel	London Luton to Geneva Flt No	Dep	Arr	Geneva to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	451	06.30	09.10	452	09.50	10.40

LIVERPOOL-AMSTERDAM

Days of travel	Liverpool to Amsterdam Flt No	Dep	Arr	Amsterdam to Liverpool Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	501	14.50	17.10	502	13.25	13.50
Saturday	503	14.50	17.10	504	13.25	13.50

LIVERPOOL-NICE

Days of travel	Liverpool to Nice Flt No	Dep	Arr	Nice to Liverpool Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	551	18.25	19.45	552	14.30	16.05
Saturday	553	15.55	19.15	554	14.00	15.35

LONDON LUTON-ATHENS

Days of travel	London Luton to Athens Flt No	Dep	Arr	Athens to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
Mon-Thur	591	22.55	04.55	592	06.50	09.00
Saturday	593	22.55	04.55	594	06.50	09.00

LONDON LUTON-MADRID

Days of travel	London Luton to Madrid Flt No	Dep	Arr	Madrid to London Luton Flt No	Dep	Arr
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Saturday	703	13.20	16.35	704	17.25	18.50

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Hidden catches mar return to Ireland

Brian Clarke has his patience tested as he revisits a favourite haunt

I owe Ireland a lot. Thirty-odd years ago it gave me my first trout to a fly. Twenty-odd years ago it gave me my first salmon and first sea trout. It has surrendered the biggest bags of perch, tench and bream that I have taken anywhere. For as long as I can remember, Ireland — and especially the west of Ireland — has flattered me.

Until, that is, last month. A fortnight in Connemara, half of it spent fishing the cream of that region's wonderful waters with some of its finest anglers, gave me a single fish. It was not just that I consistently failed: all of my companions failed as well.

So, an apocalypse in the making? Stocks collapsing and pollution rampant? No — or, at least, a qualified no. What happened was all in the game, simply the pendulum of chance and reward making one of its periodic adjustments. Swings and roundabouts, bags and blanks, are the stuff of angling.

That said, Ireland, like most places, does have its problems. The continuing, incomprehensible example is the ruination of so many great sea trout fisheries by salmon farming. For all the scientific studies demonstrating what happens, Ireland's Ministry of the Marine continues to allow salmon farms to be sited in prime sea trout estuaries through which the migrating fish must run. Sea lice, attracted by the salmon but driven away from the cages by chemicals, latch on to the passing trout and eat them alive. Many famous fisheries have been wiped out.

Ireland also has problems inland, many of them similar to our own. Rivers and lakes are being polluted by the overuse of fertilisers on the land and the inevitable leaching into the water that results. Some prime spawning streams are choked with algae. Spawning beds are being made unusable by the silt that farm animals stir up. And so on.

None of these problems, though, can be raised in defence of my performance. Ineptitude, a wish to stick to traditional techniques, often adverse weather and the pendulum of fate, were what took the toll.

I had driven to Lough Furnace with high hopes. The day before I arrived, Furnace had produced the 599th salmon of its season — a record. Under a blazing sun and on a near flat calm, not a fish was boated to round up the number.

I spent day two on Lough Corrib with the redoubtable Margaret Broadley. An old friend, she is a determined and wily game-fisher, as the 8lb 6oz brown trout above her mantlepiece will attest. She is also a courageous but not reckless boat-handler. At 72, she is still out on the vastness of Corrib three times a week on average, mostly alone in her own small boat. She knows the north shore like the back of her rod handle and tried every likely inch of reachable water. Blank two.

The evening of day three saw me on the River Clare with father-and-son Ireland international flyfishers, Sonny and Declan Martyn. The Clare is a limestone river with a stock of big, resident trout. The men this season have taken fish to an incredible 6lb. Almost all of them came on warm, still evenings. Our evening was cold and blustery. Blank three.

Day four was on Lough Maske with Danny Goldrich. He works for the Western Regional Fisheries Board and has spent much of his life on water. He is a famed lough fisher and a master of the still-water dry fly. No sooner were we in the boat than the wind strengthened. We spent the day beneath scudding clouds, lifting and sliding between white-topped rollers. It was a wild day, the kind of day, Goldrich said, on which "anything could happen". But it didn't. Blank four.



Broadley is a redoubtable character but her best efforts in Ireland came to nothing

Day five saw me on the beautiful, poteen-clear Lough Carra, this time with Tom Byrne. He is one of Ireland's new generation of competition anglers — young, keen-edged, open-minded and skilled. He lives in a house that backs onto the lake and his job as a schoolteacher gives him plenty of time to explore it. The weather seemed perfect — good cloud cover, a steady wind. And every minute was fished intently, by both of us. Nothing.

A couple of days later, Byrne and I fished Maske. This time we had a searing sun and no wind. The water slumped like mercury in its bowl. Dragonflies clattered and hawked the margins. Bees drowsed. The fish slumbered deep down — and stayed there.

By the evening of day seven, the last day I had allocated to fishing, a quiet desperation had set in. Sonny Martyn invited me back to the Clare and insisted on ghillying. The evening was not ideal but, with the last light almost gone, he eventually found me a fish. It was far upstream. Only the occasional sip it made at the surface and the faint ebbing rings winking light in the darkness revealed where. The trout took my small sedge first cast.

When it was landed, Sonny cheered and gave me a slap on the back that shook every bone I possessed. I whooped and danced a brief jig. The day — the holiday — had been saved, and saved spectacularly. The trout weighed 3lb 5oz. It was the second biggest wild brown I had taken on a dry fly from a river.

☐ *Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.*

BOXING

Woodhall fails to convince

IF Richie Woodhal, the World Boxing Council super middleweight champion,wants a big-money showdown with Joe Calzaghe, of Wals, the World Boxing Orgainsaion champion, he will have o look better in his next contes than he did against Glenn Catley in Telford (Srikumar Sn writes).

Although Wodhall retained his title b margins of two and three rounds, Catley should have been given the verdict. Indeed, when the final bell went, Woodhall put his arm round the bristol boxer and told him: "It' your fight".

Woodhall blaned his performance on Satrday on the change of opponent. He had trained for a slippery opponent in VincenzoNardiello, of Italy, and found himself facing a short, incoming fighter on whom he ws unable to land a solid purch. "A world champion shoull be able to adapt to any styl," he said.

Woodhall mut now meet Nardiello and reds to produce an explosive performance to set up te confrontation with Calzagie next year.

Street children find escape in cricket enclave

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THEY are like aliens who have invaded a strange world but, just this once, they are welcomed and encouraged to stay. The sun is shining, the grass is green and lush and teenagers from the City of Salford are playing cricket.

The game is still new to some of the children, but they have left the streets behind for a few hours and become hooked on a pastime hardly renowned for its cross-class appeal. It is, perhaps, the single most noteworthy triumph of Youth Charter for Sport (YCS), the initiative designed to help antisocial children develop through sport.

Under the YCS umbrella, children from a selection of schools in Salford have been brought together at Winton Cricket Club to give cricket a try, or to advance their interest in the game. It has proved a big success for, on certain days, more children have turned up unannounced than can be catered for in one match.

Most have obtained the traditional cricket whites to give their involvement an authenticity, but two boys who might not look the part certainly encapsulate the general feeling. Graeme Watkins and Gareth Guinnane, both 9 years-old, are in the middle of their summer holidays and Graeme, who attends Alder Park Primary School in Salford, said: "We love cricket and just wanted to play, so we came to have a look.

"We'd be bored if we couldn't come down here. I've only been into cricket for a couple of months but I want to play for Lancashire when I'm older. I prefer batting and I'm a good fielder as well."

Graeme and Gareth didn't realise it at the time, but they were doing the YCS proud. The group places great emphasis on development of children through education — and both lads were improving their numeracy while they were there.

"We couldn't play because there were too many children already here," said Gareth, a former Alder Park pupil back in town to visit his cousin, Graeme. "So we looked after the scoring and worked on the scoreboard instead, but it's not as good as playing!"

Graeme added: "My family thinks we're so boring because we like cricket and my mates don't want to come. They want to hang around the streets and like beating people up. I don't want to do that, although if I couldn't come here to play cricket, I don't know what I'd be doing."

YCS was the brainchild of Geoff Thompson, the former world karate champion, and he first targeted the children of Moss Side, Manchester, in 1993. YCS listed five "focus" sports it would concentrate on and in four of them — football, rugby, combat sports and tennis — it has given antisocial children opportunities they would not have had. It is fitting that, as it celebrates its fifth anniversary, YCS believes it has also cracked the elitist domain of cricket.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Annesley de Silva, the former Sri Lanka slow left-arm bowler, is now head coach of cricket for the City of Salford. He said: "We are achieving success in taking cricket to children who never thought it would be for them.

"Admittedly, it is a slow process. For all the children who have come to our coaching courses, there are as many still hanging around the streets. There are ways of attracting them, but we need more help from the schools."

Thompson, who echoes that sentiment, believes that Lancashire is waking up to the talent on its doorstep. Thompson said: "Lancashire have a responsibility to give these children the best chance at cricket they can. It doesn't matter if none of them don't play for Lancashire in the future. The most important thing is that, together, we can educate them, help advance their social awareness and give them self-esteem through cricket."

SPEEDWAY

Panthers on brink

PETERBOROUGH have the chance to shake off Reading tonight when they travel to Berkshire to take on their nearest challengers in the Premier League championship race (Tony Hoare writes).

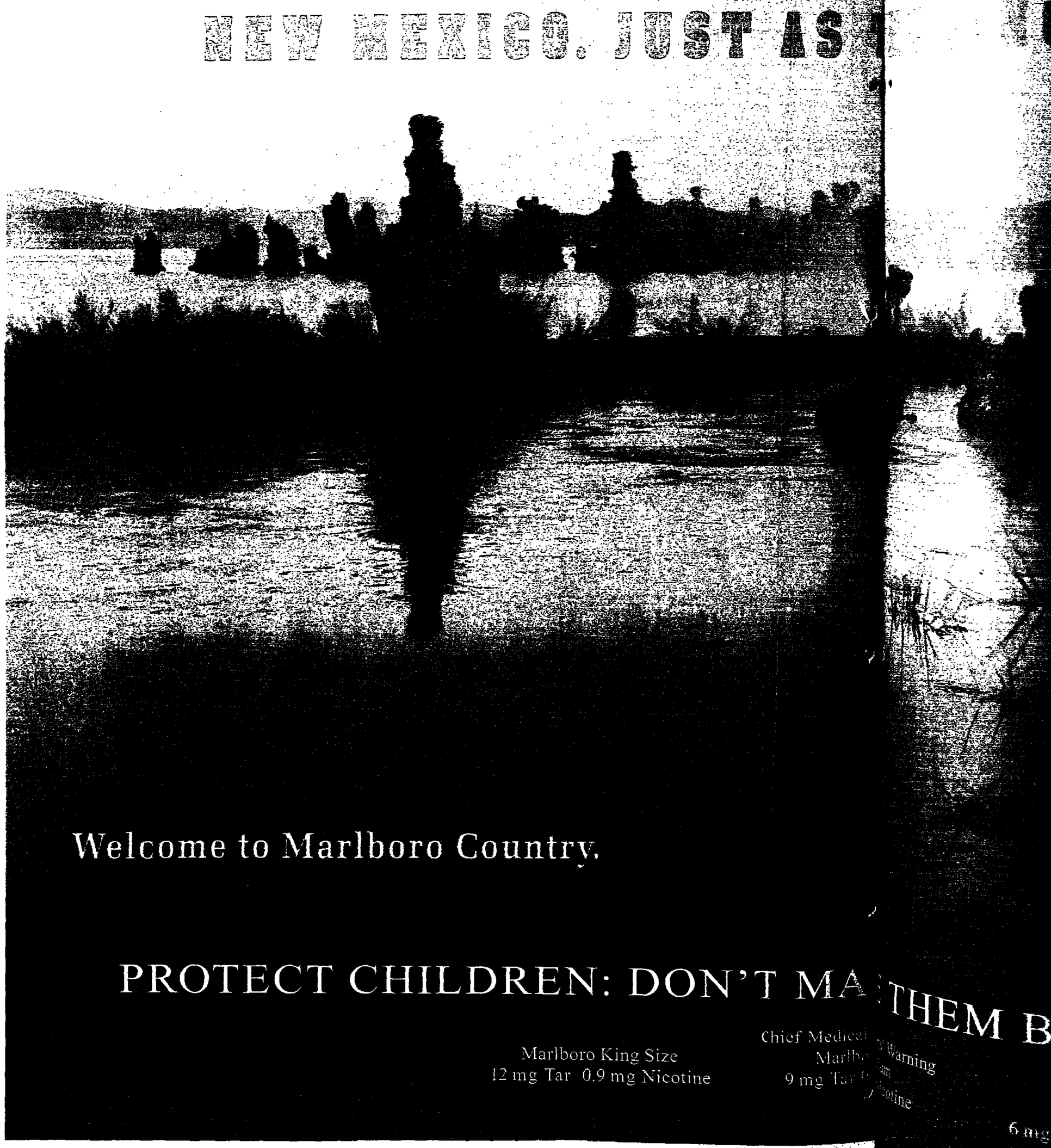
The Panthers have led the league since the start of the season and victory at Smallmead Stadium will make sure Reading cannot catch them in the end-of-season run-in.

A victory for Peterborough would mean that only a late charge from either Sheffield or Hull could overhaul them as they seek the second championship in their 28-year history. Either of the Yorkshire clubs would need to win all of their remaining matches to have a chance of winning the title.

Peterborough, who last won the title in 1992, have based their success on a youth policy that has given them three of Britain's most talented prospects in the same season.

David Howe, the British under-16 champion, has risen from reserve to one of the best second strings in the country and Simon Stead and Oliver Allen have performed capably from the reserve berths. All are just 16 years old.

"It's all down to them," Peter Oakes, the Panthers promoter, said. "They are proving what we thought, that they can all make it in speedway."



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ATHLETICS: GEBRSELASSIE, JONES AND EL GUERROUJ IN THREE-WAY TIE FOR JACKPOT IN MOSCOW

Bronson's wish goes unfulfilled

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN BRONSON says that his surname is so rare that, outside his family, he knows of only one other Bronson — the actor, Charles. In the Moscow Olympic Stadium at the weekend, the Death Wish urge passed from one Bronson to another.

The Bronson of the moment, with little apparent regard for self-preservation, ran straight into the trap laid by Mammon. There was a cool quarter-share in $1 million to be made, but Bronson was too eager.

After six victories out of six in the Golden League, the Texan 400 metres hurdler needed only one more win to put his days as an impoverished athlete far behind him. The occasion was the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) grand-prix final in Moscow, and Bronson, though racing in sunglasses, was blinded by the gold.

Out of his blocks, as if panicked by the sound of the gun, Bronson put too much into the first 300 metres. He built a two-metre lead before appearing, in the home straight, as the personification of the Russian commercial banks, sliding into economic crisis.

First, he lost $250,000 when Stephane Diagana, the world champion from France, went past him after Bronson's stride had shortened coming off the tenth and last hurdle. Then, the big money lost, he gave away the loose change. Slowing to a jog after Diagana had overtaken, Bronson faded from second to sixth, costing him a further $23,000 in place money.

The jackpot for athletes with seven wins from the Golden League and grand-prix final was thus shared between three: Marion Jones, Hicham El Guerrouj and Haile Gebrselassie. The drama of the decline of Bronson does not disguise the fact that the impact of the jackpot gimmick, introduced this year, is lessened by there being more than one winner. If it is to remain a powerful promotional tool for the sport, the IAAF must introduce a system that guarantees a million-dollar champion. How much more exciting the final would have been if a tie-break had been in operation to split Jones, El Guerrouj and Gebrselassie.

Alternatives might include: winning margin measured as a fraction of the distance run; performance judged against the Hungarian scoring tables; a sack race (unfair on the athletes, but what fun for the spectators). Seriously, the IAAF needs a solution: one prize, one winner.

One Jones, two events was the theme on Saturday. After taking her unbeaten sequence to 31 individual contests, winning the long jump, the American cruised to victory in the 100 metres. It was recalled three times before the race enjoyed a clean a start, but Jones was unfazed. As usual, Jones was not upright until almost 40 metres, after which she stretched away to record 10.83sec. None of her challengers managed under 11sec, yet they included Zhanna Pintusevich, the Ukrainian, who finished within 0.02sec of Jones at the world championships last year, and Irina Privalova, the 200 metres European champion. The performance of Jones served only to underline how the margin between her and others is growing. She picked up $633,000 in prize-money and jackpot money, but she wants to be judged on gold medals. A former basketball player, Jones's slam dunk is planned for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where she will seek five gold medals, three individual and two from the relays. She could probably win five at the world championships in Seville next year, but will limit herself to four. Why spoil the effect for the Olympics? Unlike Bronson, she knows the value of pace judgment.

ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUK / REUTERS



Jones, of the United States, won the long jump and the 100 metres in Moscow

SAILING

Coutts's headsail decision pays off

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN PORTO CERVO, SARDINIA

THE Rolex Swan World Cup came to an action-packed finale on Saturday with the 82-strong fleet beating into the beginnings of a full-blown mistral billowing down the Sardinian coast. In an incident-filled fifth and final race, Russell Coutts, a former America's Cup winner, at the wheel of *Innovision 5*, produced another consistent performance to secure a championship victory.

The race officers failed to set a course with a true downwind leg — but the crews had plenty on their hands as they set off into a 22-30 knot wind through the islands. One of the early casualties was Theo Kinsbergen's Swan 68, *Defiance*, which was in the hunt for a top-three overall place until it lost its headsail 20 minutes into the race.

While others, including Adam Gosling's 651, *Yes!*, experienced similar problems, Coutts and his crew on the Swan 60 got away smoothly and were headed only by Irvine Laidlaw's *Highland Fling* at the first turning mark. With the breeze on the borderline between a No 2 headsail and a No 3, Coutts took the calculated risk of going for the former and it paid off. "The decision to start with the No 2 was the right move — it got us out and clear, whereas a No 3 would have left us in the pack," he said.

Later, Coutts was the first in the fleet to call for a spinnaker as *Innovision 5* led the chase behind *Fling*. It was another good move, enabling Coutts to pick up valuable time on the way to the Monaci Rocks and secure second place. "In hindsight, I was worried that we didn't put it up early enough," he said afterwards.

Innovision also numbered among its crew Marcel van Triest, the Dutch Whitbread navigator, and Chris Mason, of Britain. The team were the most consistent in the fleet, finishing second on Saturday to add to two thirds, a fifth and a thirteenth.

Second overall was Loris Vaccari's Swan 46, *Eurosia*, with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy's 56, *Noonmark VI*, third. Among the other British boats, Stephen Fein's 48, *Full Pelt*, slipped to eighth. Buckingham's *Ngoni* was ninth with *Yes!* eleventh and Keith Miller's *Crackerjack* sixteenth.

☐ Ben Ainslie's phenomenal success in Lasers continued on Saturday when he recaptured the European championship that he first won in 1996. Sailing in Austria, Ainslie won four of the nine races and finished seven points ahead of Karl Suneson, of Sweden.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

The Football Conference

Hednesford v Northwich (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmsford v Ashford

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: League Cup Preliminary Round: Purfleet v Oxford City. St Albans v Hendon

UNIBOND CUP: First round: Ashton United v Trafford

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Reading v Wycombe

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Atherton Collieries

OTHER SPORT

CRICKET: Aon Trophy (one day) Lord's: Final. Minor Counties Championship: Final

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Southampton (7.45). Nottingham Forest v Everton (7.45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Norwich (7.45), Birmingham v Stockport (7.45), Bury v Portsmouth (7.45), Crewe v Crystal Palace (7.45); Huddersfield v Watford (7.45), Ipswich v Bradford (7.45) Port Vale v Wolverhampton (7.45), Queens Park Rangers v Tranmere (7.45), Sheffield Utd v Grimsby (7.45), Sunderland v Bristol City (7.45), West Bromwich v Bolton (7.45) Second division: Blackpool v Notts County; Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield (7.45), Fulham v Stoke (7.45), Gillingham v Northampton (7.45), Manchester City v Bournemouth (7.45), Oldham v Macclesfield (7.45); Walsall v York (7.45), Wigan v Colchester (7.45); Wrexham v Luton, Wycombe v Preston (7.45) Third division: Cardiff v Barnet, Carlisle v Swansea (7.45); Darlington v Hartlepool, Exeter v Brighton (7.45) Hull v Rochdale, Leyton Orient v Mansfield (7.45), Peterborough v Chester (7.45), Rotherham v Plymouth (7.45), Scunthorpe v Cambridge Utd, Southend v Halifax (7.45); Torquay v Brentford (7.45).

THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Barrow v Morecambe (7.45), Dover v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45) Kettering v Cheltenham (7.45), Welling v Yeovil (7.45), Kingstonian v Stevenage (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finals: Ayr v Rangers (8.0). Kilmarnock v Airdrie (7.45); St Johnstone v Hibernian (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Welsh National League: Premier division: Aberavon v Ebbw Vale (7.0), Bridgend v Pontypridd (7.0), Llanelli v Neath (7.0); Newport v Caerphilly (7.0)

WEDNESDAY

CRICKET

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days) Chester-le-Street: Durham v Surrey. Cardiff: Glamorgan v Derbyshire Canterbury: Kent v Somerset Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex. Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sussex Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire. Headingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

AXA LEAGUE (one day): Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Newcastle (7.45), Chelsea v Arsenal (8.0). Derby v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45); Leicester v Middlesbrough (7.45), Liverpool v Coventry (7.45). Manchester Utd v Charlton (8.0), Tottenham v Blackburn (7.45), West Ham v Wimbledon (7.45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Swindon v Oxford Utd (7.45) Second division: Millwall v Lincoln (7.45). Reading v Burnley (7.45) Third division: Scarborough v Shrewsbury

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-final: Hearts v Ross County.

THURSDAY

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: British Masters (in Coventry).

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim three day event (in Oxfordshire)

FRIDAY

CRICKET

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire.

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Tranmere v Huddersfield (7.45) Third division: Halifax v Cardiff (7.45)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Wimbledon (3.0), Charlton v Derby (3.0); Chelsea v Nottingham Forest (3.0), Everton v Leeds (3.0); Leicester v Arsenal (3.0); Manchester Utd v Coventry (3.0); Newcastle v Southampton (3.0); Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn (3.0), West Ham v Liverpool (3.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Birmingham (3.0), Bradford v Sheffield Utd (3.0), Bristol City v West Bromwich (3.0), Crystal Palace v Port Vale (3.0); Grimsby v Barnsley (3.0), Oxford Utd v Ipswich (3.0), Portsmouth v Swindon (3.0), Stockport v Crewe (3.0); Watford v Queens Park Rangers (3.0); Wolverhampton v Sunderland (3.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Wigan (3.0); Burnley v Wycombe (3.0), Chesterfield v Walsall (3.0); Colchester v Gillingham (3.0), Lincoln v Blackpool (3.0), Luton v Bristol Rovers (3.0); Macclesfield v Manchester City (3.0), Northampton v Oldham (3.0), Notts County v Fulham (3.0), Preston v Reading (3.0) Stoke v Millwall (3.0); York v Wrexham (3.0) Third division: Barnet v Hull (3.0), Brentford v Rotherham (3.0), Brighton v Southend (3.0); Cambridge Utd v Leyton Orient (3.0), Chester v Torquay (3.0); Hartlepool v Exeter (3.0); Mansfield v Carlisle (3.0); Plymouth v Darlington (3.0), Rochdale v Scunthorpe (3.0); Shrewsbury v Peterborough (3.0). Swansea v Scarborough (3.0)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Greenock Morton (3.0), Clydebank v Ayr (3.0), Raith v Falkirk (3.0), St Mirren v Hibernian (3.0), Stranraer v Hamilton (3.0) Second division: Alloa v Clyde (3.0), Forfar v East Fife (3.0), Inverness CT v Queen Of South (3.0), Livingston v Arbroath (3.0), Partick v Stirling (3.0). Third division: Brechin v Dumbarton (3.0), Cowdenbeath v Berwick (3.0), East Stirling v Albion (3.0), Queen's Park v Ross County (3.0), Stenhousemuir v Montrose (3.0).

THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Barrow v Hereford (3.0), Forest Green v Kettering (3.0), Hayes v Doncaster (3.0), Kidderminster v Farnborough (3.0); Kingstonian v Cheltenham (3.0), Leek v Woking (3.0), Morecambe v Stevenage (3.0), Rushden and Diamonds v Telford (3.0); Southport v Welling (3.0), Yeovil v Northwich (3.0), Hednesford v Dover (3.0)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v Motherwell (3.0), Celtic v Kilmarnock (3.0), Dundee Utd v Rangers (3.0), Hearts v Dundee (3.0); St Johnstone v Dunfermline (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR: Premiership One: London Scottish v Leicester (3.0), Newcastle v Bath (2.15), Northampton v Harlequins (3.0); Richmond v Gloucester (3.0), Sale v Bedford (3.0) Premiership Two: Bristol v Fylde (3.0), Coventry v Waterloo (3.0) Moseley v Leeds (3.0), Orrell v Rugby (3.0), Rotherham v Exeter (3.0) Wakefield v Worcester (3.0)

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham/Solihull v Otley (3.0), Harrogate v Morley (3.0), Liverpool St Helens v Lydney (3.0), Manchester v Camberley (3.0); Nottingham v Newbury (3.0), Rosslyn Park v Reading (3.0), Wharfedale v Henley (3.0) Second division: Aspatria v Sandal (3.0), Kendal v New Brighton (3.0); Lichfield v Preston Grasshoppers (3.0), Sedgley Park v Runcorn (3.0), Sheffield v Stourbridge (3.0), Whitchurch v Hinckley (3.0), Wimbledon Park v Walsall (3.0) Second division: Bracknell v Barking (3.0), Cheltenham v North Walsham (3.0), Norwich v Bridgwater (3.0); Plymouth v Havant (3.0), Redruth v Clifton (3.0); Tabard v Met Police (3.0), Weston-S-Mare v Esher (3.0)

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Caerphilly v Llanelli (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Newport (2.30); Neath v Bridgend (2.30); Pontypridd v Aberavon (2.30) First division: Aberdare v Maesteg (2.30) Blackwood v South Wales Police (2.30), Dunvant v Merthyr (2.30), Llandovery v UWIC (Cardiff Inst) (2.30), Pontypool v Cross Keys (2.30); Rumney v Newbridge (2.30), Tredegar v Bonymaen (2.30), Treorchy v Tondu (2.30)

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Stirling County (3.0); Hawick v Glasgow Hawks (3.00), Heriots FP v Jed-Forest (3.0), Melrose v Currie (3.0); West of Scotland v Watsonians (3.0) Second division: Aberdeen GSFP v Dundee HSFP (3.0), Biggar v Gala (3.0); Kelso v Edinburgh Acads (3.0), Kirkcaldy v Selkirk (3.0) Musselburgh v Kilmarnock (3.0) Third division: Ayr v Glenrothes (3.0) Berwick v Gordonians (3.0); East Kilbride v Glasgow Southern (3.0), Grangemouth v Preston Lodge (3.0); Stewarts Mel FP v Peebles (3.0)

GUINNESS INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP: Munster v Connacht (at Limerick, 2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: European lightweight title: B Schwer (Luton) v M Fernandez (Fr) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green)

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Three Day event (in Oxfordshire).

HOCKEY: Scottish League: Dundee W v Mill; Gordonians v Inverleith, Grange v Menzieshill; Western v Clydesdale Surbiton tournament: Group A: Hounslow, Lewes, St Albans Group B: Chelmsford, Loughboro S, Teddington, Group C: Bromley, Brooklands, East Grinstead Group D: Bournville, Oxford Univ, Surbiton Sheffield Centenary tournament (Abbeydale) Barford T, Doncaster, Hampstead, Neston, Sheffield Men's club match: City of Portsmouth v Eastcote Women's club match: Hampton v Loughboro Students

ICE HOCKEY: Benson & Hedges Cup: Group A: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Cobras, Cardiff Devils v Bracknell Bees Group B: London Knights v Manchester Storm, Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers Group C: Fife Flyers v Paisley Pirates, Telford Tigers v Edinburgh Group D: Kingston Hawks v Peterborough, Slough Jets v Guildford Flames

MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car championship (at Oulton Park)

SUNDAY

CRICKET

AXA LEAGUE (one day) Chester-le-Street: Durham v Surrey Cardiff: Glamorgan v Derbyshire Canterbury: Kent v Somerset Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sussex. Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire Headingley: Yorkshire v Warwickshire.

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham v Middlesbrough (4.0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bristol City v West Bromwich (1.0), Norwich v Bury (1.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Warrington (5.0), Huddersfield v Leeds (3.30). Salford v Wigan (5.35). St Helens v Castleford (3.0)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: West Hartlepool v London Irish Premiership Two: Blackheath v London Welsh

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Benson & Hedges Cup: Group A: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils, Newcastle Cobras v Ayr Scottish Eagles Group B: Manchester Storm v London Knights, Sheffield Steelers v Nottingham Panthers Group C: Edinburgh v Paisley Pirates. Group D: Kingston Hawks v Guildford Flames. Peterborough v Slough Jets

MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car championship (at Oulton Park)

IF DINOSAURS LEFT IT.

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World Cup cause for concern among counties

RICHARD HOBSON



Championship Commentary

The World Cup, by definition, will attract the best cricketers in the land to England next season. The competition also leaves the counties facing a dilemma of their own making. Having overturned what appeared an entirely sensible decision to impose a moratorium on overseas players for a year, they must now decide how — or if — to fill those positions.

According to a provisional fixture list produced by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for next season, by the time the World Cup finishes on June 20, ten out of 20 championship slots and ten of 23 for the new National League will already have been used. Counties have three options. They can either take somebody after the competition for what is effectively half the season, sign a player who is not involved — either retired from the international game or not deemed worthy of selection — for the full summer, or simply back the talent of their English players and not bother.

The issue of recruitment is complicated further because Australia, whose batsmen are considered to be among the most reliable signings, have commitments in Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka beginning in mid-August. The Sahara Cup in Canada involves India and Pakistan in September, while training camps are being convened at increasingly short notice by more and more countries.

Yet, even with so many potential problems, it appears unlikely that any of the 18 counties will be bold enough to go without. As one chief executive said: "We cannot afford to go out on a limb in case it backfires and leaves us open to criticism."

Sussex, with Michael Bevan, Worcestershire (Tom Moody) and Nottinghamshire (Paul Strang) will retain their present overseas players regardless of participation in the World Cup. Warwickshire are prepared to welcome back Allan Donald for half of the campaign.

Others are taking a different approach. Yorkshire have signed Greg Blewett as a stop-gap for Darren Lehmann, who returns in 2000. Derbyshire have reopened negotiations with Michael Slater but have asked for a letter from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) outlining the player's availability. Ironically, they only turned to Slater when they failed to receive such a guarantee from the Pakistan authorities when they wanted Saeed Anwar.

Lancashire may demand something similar from Sri Lanka if they decide to pursue Muttiah Muralitharan. Unlikely as it sounds, Sri Lanka are understood to be prepared to give Muralitharan dispensation to miss the build-up to the Australia series.

Gloucestershire have offered Courtney Walsh a two-year contract, but with the proviso that he misses the World Cup. Walsh has been among the best of all overseas players but Gloucestershire say that, even in his case, they cannot afford to take a gamble. Walsh has been told to make a decision within the next fortnight.

Durham can be as satisfied as any county at this stage. David Boon, the captain, has proved a successful signing since ending his test career. Mark Taylor, his fellow Australian and a proven batsman and captain, is unlikely to figure in the World Cup and looks ideally qualified to fill the vacancy at Northamptonshire.

CRICKET: FINE ALL-ROUND DISPLAY FROM SUCH FAILS TO PREVENT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VICTORY

Essex title hopes slipping away

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Essex by 51 runs

ESSEX had to beat Nottinghamshire yesterday to retain anything other than a flimsy hope of winning the Axa League for a fourth time. That they did not means that Lancashire require a victory, a tie or merely an abandonment from their match against Hampshire at Old Trafford today to become champions.

On a pitch that was unexpectedly slow, Essex, who needed 193 to win, lost nine wickets for 89. A rather uneventful match was much enlivened by an unbroken last-wicket stand of 52 between Ashley Cowan and Peter Such, but it was no longer a contest by then. Last week, before being well beaten by Yorkshire at Scarborough, Essex were at the top of the table and contemplating a second one-day trophy in an otherwise troublesome season.

Essex appeared dog-tired here. Bottom of the championship table and, as they play Leicestershire, the leaders, this week, likely to finish there for the first time since 1950, they will have to placate their sizeable following this winter. An element among their crowd knows only modern-day success and there is not the same bedrock of support as exists, for instance, in neighbouring Kent. It is, after all, only 19 years since Essex won any kind of trophy for the first time.

Only around 3,500 were present yesterday, an unthinkable crowd in the days of Fletcher and Gooch when Essex were seemingly always in contention for a trophy. Simon Heffer, the writer and authority on the county, felt some years ago that a lean period would result in the kinds of seismic upheaval that bedevilled Yorkshire. It is as well for them that they won the Benson and Hedges Cup earlier this summer.

Gooch, of course, is irreplaceable. Many supporters will be aware that they have been spoiled down the years. In the absence of Hussain, who had a double hernia operation last Friday — he will be fit in time for England's tour of Australia — one or other of Stuart Law and Irani needed to come up with a positive innings. This did not occur. Indeed, nobody other than the last-wicket pair managed more than the odd blow of defiance. The crowd began to drift away before the end, fond as they are of Such, who hitherto had not scored a run in this competition all season.

Law, who has not been selected for the Australia party for the Commonwealth Games, was caught at mid-wicket, trying to turn Evans through the gap between that fielder and square leg. Prichard skied an attempted hook back to Franks, Peters was taken at slip, driving at the same bowler, and Robinson was bowled looking to take the attack to Tolley. Danny Law and Grayson went in successive balls to Bates. Irani swung Oram for six, drove him for four and, the following ball, was leg before on the front foot.

Hyam, who has replaced Rollins behind the stumps, drove Dowman feebly to mid-on. Other than a few late biffs from Cowan, that was more or less that. His partnership with Such was the highest of the innings and by some way the most entertaining. Franks finished with three wickets and Essex in a state of perplexity.

Yet Nottinghamshire's innings had been pretty featureless. The pitch did not help. Archer made an unbeaten half century that included, unusually, no fours but two sixes off Grayson. Johnson, who has scored more runs in the Axa League than any batsman other than Mal Loye this summer, contributed 31.

The total seemed insufficient, but all Essex had to celebrate was the bowling of Such, who returned figures of 8-2-18-1. Very soon he should be starring again Down Under.

TABLE

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Lancashire (3)	15	10	2	0	3	46	11 80
Essex (7)	16	9	4	1	2	42	5 53
Warwicks (1)	16	8	5	0	3	38	4 27
Leics (4)	15	8	6	0	2	36	12 36
Hampshire (15)	15	8	6	0	1	34	1 73
Yorkshire (10)	16	8	7	0	1	34	2 40
Kent (2)	16	7	6	0	3	34	2 83
Notts (12)	16	7	7	1	1	32	0 67
Middlesex (16)	16	7	7	0	2	32	4 57
Glouces (11)	16	6	6	0	4	32	2 60
Worcs (8)	16	6	6	1	3	32	5 12
Somerset (6)	16	6	7	1	2	30	0 41
Derbyshire (14)	16	5	7	0	3	30	3 61
Sussex (18)	16	5	8	0	3	28	1 03
Glamorgan (13)	16	5	8	0	3	28	3 15
Northants (9)	16	5	7	1	3	28	0 11
Durham (17)	16	4	8	1	3	24	5 01
Surrey (5)	16	2	12	0	2	12	12 24

(Last year's positions in brackets)

SUZANNE HOBBARD



Tolley helps to bat Nottinghamshire into a winning position against Essex at Chelmsford in the Axa League

Hollioake lifts Surrey gloom

THE OVAL (Kent won toss): Surrey (4pts) beat Kent by 41 runs

JUST as Surrey's ignominious Axa League season seemed destined to sink to the lowest of realms, their captain, Adam Hollioake, produced a fine all-round performance to carry the hosts to their first Sunday win at The Oval (Rupert Cox writes). Their 41-run victory over Kent — a second win of the season — takes Surrey clear of Durham's record, in 1996, when they managed one victory and a mere six points.

On a mottled, two-paced wicket that stifled strokeplay, batsmen were forced to graft for their runs. John Batty, the Surrey wicketkeeper, passed 35 as he coaxed a target in excess of 4½ an over.

As Kent wickets tumbled at regular intervals, Hollioake's dismissal of Carl Hooper, with a classic leg-cutter, tilted the balance. His four for 18, ably supported by three for 36 from Michael Bell, allowed Surrey to overrun Kent and they were humbled with 5.3 overs to spare.

Surrey will also have gained heart from the debut of Carl Greenidge, a seamer and 21-year-old son of Gordon, who exhibited enough potential to suggest he will have a future in the game, despite seven wicketless overs.

Yorkshire's lights go out as Sussex romp home

BY BARNEY SPENDER

HOVE (Yorkshire won toss): Sussex (4pts) beat Yorkshire by six wickets

A FORTNIGHT ago, when Yorkshire's batsmen crumbled to a dismal 81 all out against Lancashire in the Axa League, they were at least able to blame the vagaries of playing under lights. There were no such excuses yesterday, however, as they slumped to 89 all out to allow Sussex the most straightforward of wins.

The sea was fretting enough to assist the likes of Robin Martin-Jenkins, who had a good all-round match. But the Yorkshire batsmen showed an uncharacteristic lack of grit after chooosing to bat first and Sussex romped home with 16 overs to spare.

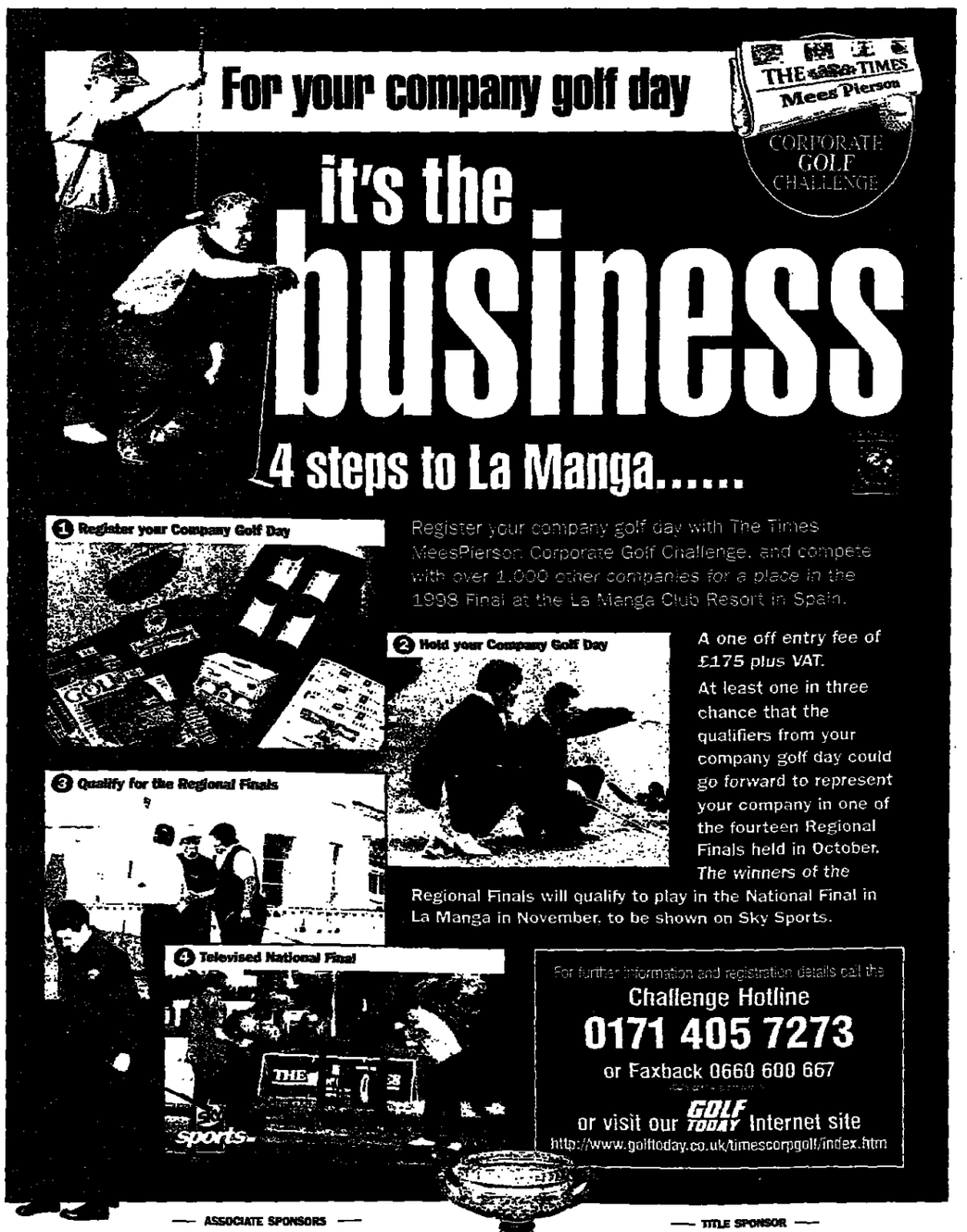
The consolation for Yorkshire is that they are still fairly certain to finish in the top nine and qualify for the first division next season. Mathematically, Sussex also have a slim chance of making the cut.

Yorkshire's problems began in the third over when Craig White played on to Martin-Jenkins. Matthew Wood was bowled by Kirtley in the next over and the white rose was quickly replaced by the white flag as the remaining batsmen surrendered meekly.

Martin-Jenkins, who bowled Sussex to victory in their championship match against Glamorgan last week, added the wicket of Michael Vaughan to claim two for 12 from his eight overs.

Gavin Hamilton was the only batsman to show any staying power, but as he half-threatened to take Yorkshire beyond the 100-mark, Kirtley wrapped up the innings by removing Ian Fisher and Hoggard off successive deliveries and Ian Hutchison in his next over.

Martin-Jenkins completed a good day's work by striking 44 off 49 balls, including six crisp boundaries, as he and Rajesh Rao put on 63 for the first wicket. A mini-slump saw them lose four wickets for six runs in three overs, but Keith Newell and James Carpenter led Sussex home.



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CRICKET

Durham far from thrill of the chase

By Richard Hobson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Durham won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Durham by 26 runs

A PRESS release issued by the Axa League spin doctors referring to a "thrilling finish" to the season as counties jostle for a place in the new National League next year became increasingly hard to reconcile yesterday with this contest between two depleted counties on a grey, windswept afternoon at the Riverside.

Results earlier in the summer have ensured that Glamorgan and Durham will both feature in the second division and, while the Welsh county were hardly flawless in their performance yesterday, they still won with considerable comfort.

Matthew Maynard passed 5,000 runs in the competition as Glamorgan reached 232 for seven from 40 overs and, despite a 76 from David Boon and some late hitting by the lower order, Durham could only muster 206 for eight in reply.

It said much for the extent of the injuries afflicting Glamorgan that Maynard and Cottey shared the fifth bowler's duties. With this in mind, they could not afford to post a total below 200 after being put in to bat.

In fact, they might have exceeded 250 but for the loss of six wickets in the last five overs for 23 runs including that of James for 78, bowled as he tried to work away the expensive spin of Phillips.

The best batting of the game came from Maynard during an opening stand of 170 with James, the second highest for any wicket against Durham on a Sunday. It took a fine catch by Gough, the substitute fielder, at deep mid-wicket to end his innings of 90 from 94 balls with eight fours and a six off Harmison, who is usually considered too wayward to feature in the competition.

The youngster, selected for the England A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa last week, was not the only bowler to offer too many loose deliveries to the openers as they progressed at a rate of nearly six runs per over. In mitigation, Durham lacked Brown and Betts, but then Glamorgan were even worse affected, missing Waqar, Watkin, Thomas and Croft.

Dale struck a brisk 21 before driving to long off as the quest for quick runs took an expensive toll. If such haste could be excused at the end of the innings, then there was little need for Durham to begin their response quite so excitably.

Roseberry sliced to cover in the third over and Morris, dropped first ball by Maynard, fell soon afterwards to a one-handed catch by Powell at deep square leg. Cosker missed a sharp return chance offered by Boon on 18, but the error never looked as though it would become decisive.

While Boon doubled his previous highest score in the competition this season, his timing was rarely fluent. Speight scored 28 of a third-wicket stand of 51, driving Cosker for six before hitting the left arm spinner to long off, and Collingwood and Lewis both succumbed tamely to Cottey.

When Boon did force Cosker straight with the middle of his bat, the ball whistled through the air within an inch of the ear of Dickie Bird on its way to the boundary. The nation's favourite umpire, officiating in his penultimate match before retiring to amuse the blue-rinse circuit, responded by waving a white handkerchief. In fact, the only surrender was from the home side.

WINSTON BYNORTH



A soggy scene at Taunton as the covers go on for the final time after Somerset's match against Worcestershire was abandoned with the home side on 77 for four

Dakin displays a new trick

LEICESTER (Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by 160 runs

By Pat Gibson

THE end of the season cannot come too soon for Middlesex. The slump that has already put them in danger of finishing bottom of the Britannic Assurance county championship reached a new low yesterday when they were bowled out for 62, the lowest score in the Axa League this season, by Leicestershire.

Their destroyers were Jimmy Ormond, the young fast bowler, who must have left Mike Gatting wondering why he and his fellow selectors left him out of the England A tour, by taking four for 12, and John Dakin, the powerful all-rounder, who finished them off with the first hat-trick of his career.

Well as Ormond bowled for his best figures in the competition, it was an inept batting performance on a blameless pitch by a Middlesex side whose confidence and morale seemed to be at rock bottom. Only Ramprakash, the captain, who made 16, and Dutch, who finished on 16 not out, got into double figures.

Leicestershire could have been forgiven for saving their energies for the important matter of the county championship, where they now have a five-point lead with two matches to go, but they put it to the back of their minds to turn in an impressive all-round performance that virtually guarantees them a place in the top half of the table and qualification for the first division of the new National League next season.

Their total of 222 for eight was based on an opening partnership of 69 in 14 overs between Wells and Dakin. Though the middle order did not get very far, Simmons and Lewis picked up the momentum and Ormond finished the innings with a six through the window of the players' dining room.

He was to prove even more destructive with the ball. Middlesex got off to the worst possible start when Brown was run out by Wells's throw off his first ball. Strauss was caught behind, Shah at cover and Ramprakash at long leg, but Ormond reserved his most meaningful delivery for Gatting, beating him for pace to rip out his middle stump.

All that remained was for Dakin to have Hewitt caught at second slip and bowl the obliging Fraser and Tufnell to record Leicestershire's first hat-trick in the competition since Graham McKenzie did it against Essex in 1972.

Defiant Potter digs in to thwart Dorset

BOURNEMOUTH (first day of two; Dorset won toss): Dorset, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 135 runs behind Staffordshire

By Michael Austin

OBSTINATE pitches sharpen the competitive edges of seasoned professionals and a damp surface at Dean Park, now the home of Bournemouth University, had precisely that effect on Laurie Potter, the former Kent and Leicestershire all-rounder, in the Minor Counties championship final yesterday.

Potter's innings of 58, including six fours from 114 balls, guided Staffordshire to 177 for six. Dorset, at 42 for two, when heavy rain ended play lamented not, accepting the umpires' offer of bad light immediately before losing two wickets off successive balls.

Before losing Richings and Hardy, both caught at the wicket, Dorset had restrained Staffordshire through the expert efforts of Shackleton, 46, whose medium-pace suited the pitch and Pike, 29, a leg spinner with 39 championship wickets this summer.

Remarkably, Pike has bowled more than 300 overs despite a wet season and his accuracy was rewarded with the wickets of Wellings and Mills, who was caught at long-on by the only deep fielder.

Dean had cut the fourth ball of the match, from Shackleton, to gully but Potter's vigilance and that of Steele, son of David, the former Northamptonshire and England batsman, sustained Staffordshire. Steele made 40 not out from 64 balls, surviving the loss of Harvey, run out by Scott's direct hit and Humphries, bowled by Cowley.

Potter was then caught at mid-off off a ball that stopped on him.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Axa League

Durham v Glamorgan

RIVERSIDE (Durham won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Durham by 26 runs

GLAMORGAN

S P James b Phillips	78
*M P Maynard c sub b Phillips	90
A Dale c Chapman b Phillips	21
P A Cottey run out	3
M J Powell b Collingwood	8
A W Evans c sub b Wood	1
W L Law c Morris b Collingwood	7
†I Dawood not out	1
A P Davies not out	1
Extras (lb 16, w 6, nb 5)	28
Total (7 wkts, 40 overs)	232

D A Cosker and O T Parkin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-170, 2-209, 3-214, 4-214, 5-225, 6-227, 7-229

BOWLING: Wood 8-0-29-1; Killeen 4-0-22-0; Collingwood 8-0-40-2; Harmison 6-0-45-0; Chapman 6-0-35-0; Phillips 8-0-45-3

DURHAM

*D C Boon b Parkin	76
M A Roseberry c James b Parkin	2
J E Morris c Powell b Parkin	6
†M P Speight c Davies b Cosker	26
P D Collingwood c Maynard b Cottey	22
J J B Lewis c Maynard b Cottey	3
S Chapman lbw b Davies	14
N C Phillips c Law b Davies	2
J Wood not out	19
N Killeen not out	21
Extras (lb 4, lb 4, w 5)	13
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	206

S J Harmison did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-20, 3-71, 4-116, 5-124, 6-148, 7-152, 8-166

BOWLING: Parkin 8-0-25-3; Davies 8-1-46-2; Cosker 5-0-53-1; Dale 8-0-32-0; Maynard 4-0-20-0; Cottey 4-1-22-2.

Umpires: H D Bird and V A Holder

Essex v Nottinghamshire

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Essex by 51 runs

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

*J E R Gallian c S G Law b Ilott	12
P R Pollard c Cowan b Such	23
P Johnson b Grayson	31
G F Archer not out	50
M P Dowman run out	13
C M Tolley lbw b Cowan	28
P J Franks run out	4
†C M W Read not out	15
Extras (lb 1, lb 9, w 6)	16
Total (6 wkts, 40 overs)	192

K P Evans, R T Bates and A R Oram did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-70, 3-70, 4-101, 5-157, 6-183

BOWLING: Ilott 8-0-32-1; Cowan 8-0-44-1; Such 8-2-18-1; Irani 8-0-47-0; Grayson 8-0-41-1

ESSEX

*P J Prichard c and b Franks	11
S G Law c Pollard b Evans	6
S D Peters c Pollard b Franks	7
R C Irani lbw b Oram	22
A P Grayson b Bates	15
D D J Robinson b Tolley	0
D R Law c Archer b Bates	5
†B J Hyam c Gallian b Dowman	1
A P Cowan not out	40
M C Ilott c Read b Franks	1
P M Such not out	13
Extras (lb 9, w 7, nb 4)	20
Total (9 wkts, 40 overs)	141

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-23, 3-32, 4-57, 5-59, 6-81, 7-81, 8-87, 9-89

BOWLING: Evans 8-1-32-1; Franks 8-1-24-3; Tolley 5-0-22-1; Oram 8-2-22-1; Bates 7-0-21-2; Dowman 4-0-11-1.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and B Dudleston

Leicestershire v Middlesex

LEICESTER (Middlesex won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Middlesex by 160 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE

V J Wells b Weekes	77
J M Dakin c Hewitt b Tufnell	29
†P A Nixon c Gatting b Dutch	3
A Habib c and b Tufnell	8
B F Smith c Dutch b Johnson	8
*P V Simmons not out	40
D L Maddy b Johnson	3
C C Lewis c Hewitt b Johnson	23
D Williamson b Johnson	7
J Ormond not out	11
Extras (b 5, lb 8, w 3, nb 2)	18
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	222

M T Brimson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-69, 2-80, 3-115, 4-122, 5-151, 6-169, 7-196, 8-210

BOWLING: Fraser 8-0-43-0; Hewitt 8-1-35-0; Tufnell 8-0-39-2; Dutch 5-0-26-1; Johnson 8-0-45-4; Weekes 3-0-20-1.

MIDDLESEX

†K R Brown run out	0
A J Strauss c Nixon b Ormond	5
*M R Ramprakash c Brimson b Ormond	16
O A Shah c Smith b Lewis	3
P N Weekes c Simmons b Ormond	5
M W Gatting b Ormond	2
K P Dutch not out	16
R L Johnson b Williamson	0
J P Hewitt c Lewis b Dakin	7
A R C Fraser lbw b Dakin	0
P C R Tufnell b Dakin	0
Extras (lb 6, w 2)	8
Total (22.4 overs)	62

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-12, 3-21, 4-33, 5-37, 6-40, 7-41, 8-62, 9-62

BOWLING: Ormond 8-3-12-4; Lewis 5-0-17-1; Williamson 6-2-17-1; Dakin 3.4-1-10-3.

Umpires: R Palmer and N T Plews.

Somerset v Worcestershire

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): No result Somerset (3pts) Worcestershire (2)

SOMERSET

M Burns b Sheriyar	8
M N Lathwell st Rhodes b Illingworth	22
M E Trescothick c Rhodes b Haynes	8
*P D Bowler c Catterall b Illingworth	11
K A Parsons not out	13
†R J Turner not out	7
Extras (lb 2, w 6)	8
Total (4 wkts, 19 overs)	77

J D Kerr, G D Rose, A R K Pierson, A R Caddick and P S Jones did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-25, 3-56, 4-58

BOWLING: Sheriyar 3-0-23-1; Haynes 4-2-12-1; Lampitt 5-0-21-0; Illingworth 5-1-10-2; Rawnsley 2-0-9-0.

WORCESTERSHIRE: W P C Weston, V S Solanki, *G A Hick, D A Leatherdale, †S J Rhodes, G R Haynes, R K Illingworth, S R Lampitt, D Catterall, M J Rawnsley, A Sheriyar.

Umpires: J H Harris and J W Holder.

Surrey v Kent

THE OVAL (Kent won toss): Surrey (4pts) beat Kent by 41 runs

SURREY

D J Bicknell b Fleming	23
I J Ward c Marsh b Phillips	4
J D Ratcliffe c and b Hooper	24
N Shahid b McCague	4
A D Brown b Phillips	16
*A J Hollioake c Hooper b McCague	32
†J N Batty not out	38
I D K Salisbury b Fleming	13
M A V Bell b Headley	2
J E Benjamin not out	3
Extras (lb 13, w 11)	24
Total (8 wkts, 40 overs)	183

C G Greenidge did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-51, 3-58, 4-79, 5-91, 6-141, 7-156, 8-167

BOWLING: Headley 8-1-25-1; Phillips 8-0-30-2; McCague 8-1-35-2; Fleming 8-0-43-2; Hooper 8-0-37-1.



James Ormond: routed Middlesex

KENT

T R Ward c Brown b Benjamin	2
E T Smith b Bell	31
R W T Key c Ratcliffe b Salisbury	15
C L Hooper b Hollioake	26
M J Walker c Ward b Bell	1
N J Llong b Bell	15
M V Fleming c Shahid b Hollioake	4
*†S A Marsh b Hollioake	10
M J McCague c and b Hollioake	13
B J Phillips run out	2
D W Headley not out	0
Extras (lb 4, w 7, nb 12)	23
Total (33.3 overs)	142

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-38, 3-68, 4-70, 5-96, 6-106, 7-113, 8-138, 9-141

BOWLING: Benjamin 6-1-12-1; Greenidge 7-0-35-0; Salisbury 7-0-37-1; Bell 8-0-36-3; Hollioake 5.3-0-16-4.

Umpires: A A Jones and A G T Whitehead.

Sussex v Yorkshire

HOVE (Yorkshire won toss): Sussex (4pts) beat Yorkshire by six wickets

YORKSHIRE

C White b Martin-Jenkins	4
M P Vaughan lbw b Martin-Jenkins	10
M J Wood b Kirtley	0
*D Byas c Adams b Robinson	10
B Parker c Carpenter b K Newell	11
†R J Blakey run out	13
G M Hamilton not out	20
C E W Silverwood b Adams	13
I D Fisher c and b Kirtley	4
M J Hoggard lbw b Kirtley	0
P M Hutchison b Kirtley	3
Extras (b 1, lb 2, w 1)	4
Total (38 overs)	89

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-7, 3-17, 4-34, 5-42, 6-54, 7-78, 8-85, 9-85

BOWLING: Martin-Jenkins 8-2-12-2; Kirtley 8-0-21-4; Edwards 5-2-7-0; Robinson 6-0-19-1; K Newell 6-0-17-1; Adams 3-0-10-1.

SUSSEX

R R Rao run out	21
R S C Martin-Jenkins lbw b Hoggard	44
*C J Adams c Byas b Vaughan	0
J R Carpenter not out	10
M Newell lbw b Hoggard	0
K Newell not out	12
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (4 wkts, 24 overs)	90

W G Khan, A D Edwards, †S Humphries, R J Kirtley and M A Robinson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63, 2-63, 3-69, 4-69

BOWLING: Silverwood 4-0-15-0; Hutchison 3-0-15-0; Fisher 4-0-17-0; Hamilton 4-0-16-0; Vaughan 5-0-14-1; Hoggard 4-0-12-2.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and J F Steele.

Minor Counties Championship Play-Off

Dorset v Staffordshire

DEAN PARK, BOURNEMOUTH (first day of two. Dorset won toss): Dorset with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 135 runs behind Staffordshire

STAFFORDSHIRE: First Innings

L Potter c Swarbrick b Shackleton	58
*S J Dean c Rintoul b Shackleton	0
P E Wellings c Reynolds b Pike	15
R Mills c Richings b Pike	12
M V Steele not out	40
R P Harvey run out	16
†M I Humphries b Cowley	5
D R Womble not out	12
Extras (lb 1, lb 8, w 2, nb 8)	19
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	177

D J Brock, D J P Boden and A Richardson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-39, 3-73, 4-112, 5-147, 6-156.

BOWLING: Shackleton 22-6-54-2; Dment 6-2-20-0; Pike 19-1-74-2; Cowley 3-0-20-1.

DORSET: First Innings

*J J E Harcy c Humphries b Brock	15
T W Richings c Humphries b Boden	25
R J Scott not out	0
†G D Reynolds not out	1
Extras (w 2, nb 2)	4
Total (2 wkts, 11.5 overs)	42

T C Z Lamb, M Swarbrick, S W D Rintoul, N G Cowley, W J Pike, S Dment and J H Shackleton to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-41

BOWLING: Richardson 5-1-23-0; Brock 5.5-1-14-1; Boden 1-0-5-1.

Umpires: M K Read and C T Puckett.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE



By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

When you have a trump holding headed by the ace, with the opposition having the other high honours, ducking a round is frequently best, whether you are defender or declarer. Here is an example:

Dealer South — **Love all** — **Rubber bridge**

	♠KQ3 ♥10862 ♦AQ74 ♣95	
♠10987 ♥Q3 ♦K106 ♣Q1082	N W E S	♠542 ♥KJ5 ♦J982 ♣KJ3
	♠AJ6 ♥A974 ♦53 ♣A764	

S	W	N	E
1 NT(12-14)	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ten of spades.

The idea on this type of hand is to duck a club, then duck a trump, then cash the ace of trumps. You have to assume the diamond finesse is right — otherwise the defence will have four tricks. Finally, cash all the side winners (taking the diamond finesse), then go backwards and forwards ruffing clubs in dummy and diamonds in hand. In effect you make three spade tricks, two hearts, two diamonds, one club and two ruffs.

☐ British medals in the world championships in Lille were confined to the Elf Senior Pairs, won in convincing style by Boris Schapiro, who had celebrated his 89th birthday a few days previously and Irving Gordon.

The Société Générale Open Pairs was won by Michal Kwiecien and Jacek Pszczola, of Poland.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS



By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Title Jeopardy

According to reports on the internet, as yet unconfirmed by Kasparov, his forthcoming title defence against Alexei Shirov is in jeopardy. The report stated 'The match between Gary Kasparov and Alexei Shirov is not going to take place. The President of the World Chess Council' [the organising body] 'Luis Rentero, had previously guaranteed that the prize fund for the match would be there, but after political manoeuvrings in Andalucia he found that he could no longer do so. Efforts to find alternative sponsors have so far been fruitless, so the match is now off the agenda unless funding can be found.'

Karpov's Disaster

Meanwhile, as the following crosstable shows the rival world champion, Anatoly Karpov - the FIDE champion, also has his problems. His performance in the tournament at Polanica Zdroj was possibly the worst of his adult career.

Polanica Zdroj, Final Crosstable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1		
Gelfand		1	+	+	+	+	1	+	+	1	+	16+	2
Shirov		0	=	1	0	+	=	+	+	1	1	15+	3
Kosteniuk	+	0	=	1	+	+	1	0	1	+		5	4
Ivanchuk	+	1	0	=	+	+	+	+	+	1		5	5
Leko	+	+	+	+	=	+	+	+	+	1		5	6
Rublevsky	0	0	+	+	+	=	1	1	+	1		5	7
Karpov	0	+	0	+	+	0	=	1	+	+		4	8
Mecking	0	+	1	+	+	0	0	=	+	1		4	9
Ott	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	=	+3+			10
Markowski	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	=	1+		

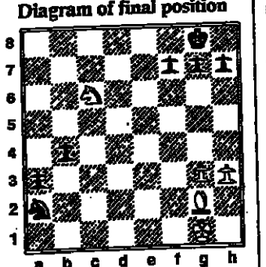
In the above table, 1 represents a win, + a draw and 0 a loss.

White: Tomasz Markowski
Black: Alexei Shirov Polanica Zdroj 1998
King's Indian Attack

1	Nf3	d5
2	g3	Bg4
3	Bg2	Nd7
4	c4	e6
5	cxd5	exd5
6	0-0	Ngf6
7	d3	c6
8	Qc2	Bc5
9	e4	0-0
10	h3	Bh5
11	Nbd2	dxe4
12	dxe4	Re8
13	b3	Qe7
14	Bb2	Nxe4
15	Rae1	Bg6
16	Nh4	Bxd2+
17	Rxd2	Nxf2
18	Rxe7	Bxc2
19	Rxd7	Rad8
20	Rxd8	Rxd8
21	Nc4	Nd3
22	Ba3	b5
23	Na5	b4
24	Nxc6	bxa3
25	Nxd8	Nb4
26	Nf3	Nxa2
27	Nc6	Be4
28	Nfd4	Bxc6
29	Nxc6	a5
30	b4	axb

4 White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ZOPF
a. A pigtail
b. Bread and milk
c. Lip salve

MERCAPTANS
a. Crisp biscuits
b. Noxious compounds
c. Shipmasters

GOOFUS
a. Nonsense
b. A cartoon character
c. A reed instrument

SPATCHCOCK
a. A grilled fowl
b. A safety valve
c. Prep school initiation rite

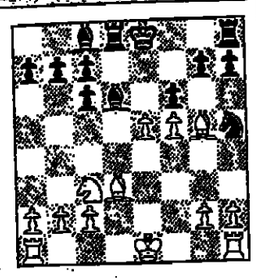
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Naylor — Spanton, Major Open, Torquay 1998. Although White has attacked the black bishop on d6, Black has countered against the white bishop on g5. How did White resolve the tension in his favour?

Solution on page 46



THE TIMES

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FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

BLACKPOOL: Talbot Trophy: Sixth round: P Fielding (Rochdale) bt P Slinger (Blackburn) 21-16, P Hawkes (Preston) bt G Storer (Burntwood) 21-12, R Baxter (Blackpool) bt *A Broadhurst (Aspull) 21-19*; P Blackburn (Wakefield) bt A J Walker (Sheffield) 21-11, P Wilson (Lytham) bt R Everitt (Walsall) 21-15, *A Cairns (Rossendale) bt D Kirkham (Stretford) 21-11*, G Cookson (Winsford) bt M Holcroft (Blackpool) 21-19, W Munro *(Audenshaw) bt G Bewley (Hyde) 21-8*

WORTHING: Open tournament: Finals: Pairs: M Dare (Kings, Torquay) and I Snowdon (Dipcott) bt J Hollman (Worthing Pavilion) and A Knapp (Horsham) 31-4. Fours: J Peacock, V Thrower, D Wells (all Weybridge) and C Ions (Weybridge) bt S Robertson (IBM), M Brown (Milton Park), D Biggs *and C Hayward (both Portsmouth* Civil Service) 19-16

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Hertfordshire 133 Bedfordshire 94, *Huntingdonshire* 99 Essex 146; Suffolk 117 Cambridgeshire 112.

FRANCIS BURTON MIDLAND COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicestershire 94 (3pts) *Northamptonshire 118 (13pts)*

INTER-COUNTY MATCHES: Bedfordshire 118 Warwickshire 102; Berkshire 133 Gloucestershire 119

BOXING

TELFORD: Super-bantamweight (four rounds): G Rees (Newbridge) bt J Farrell (Bootle), pts. Super-bantamweight (six rounds): M Gomez (Manchester) bt P Buckley (Birmingham), pts. Welterweight (six rounds): A Farrell (Manchester) bt D Williams (Swansea), rtd 4th. Welterweight (eight rounds): P Samuels (Newbridge) bt S McCracken (Birmingham), pts

CANOEING

SZEGED, Hungary: Flatwater World Championships: Men: Singles: Canoe: *200 metres:* 1, Doktor (Cz) 41.622sec; 2, Knazovicky (Svk) 41.666; 3, Slivinski (Ukr) 41.714. 500 metres: 1, M Opalev (Russ) 3min *01.009sec*; 2, A *Dittmer (Ger)* 2:01.617; 3, M Slivinski (Ukr) 2:02.413. 1,000 metres: 1, S Giles (Can) 04min 06.725sec; 2, M *Doktor (Cz) 04:07.525; 3, A* Dittmer (Ger) 04:10.917. Kayak: 200 meters: *1,* Kolganov (Isr) 36.232sec; 2, Slivinski (Ukr) 36.460; 3, Filipovics (Yug) 36.568. 500 metres: 1, A Vercker (Hon) 1min 43.546sec; 2, M Kolganov (Isr) 1:43.698; 3, L Lwowski (Ger) 1:44.706. 1,000 metres: 1, L Lwowski (Ger) 3min 40.738sec; 2, *K Holmann (Nor) 03:42.806;* 3, J Correa (Arg) 03:45.074. Pairs: Canoe: 500 metres: 1, C Horvath, G Kolonics (Hon) 1min 45.941sec; 2, P Baraszkiewicz, D Jedraszko (Pol) *1:47.161; 3, T Zareske, C* Gille (Ger) 1:47.409. 1,000 metres: 1, A Kovalev, A Kostoglod (Russ) 03min 56.026sec; 2, G Andriev, *F Popescu (Rom)* 03:56.550; 3, G Zala, E Ipacs (Hun) 03:57.486. Kayak, 1,000 metres: 1, A Rossi, L Negri (It) 03min 28.728sec; 2, M Janic, S Janic (Yug) 03:28.964; 3, A Adam, K Vereb (Hun) 03:29.728. 500m: 1, Risdorfer, Baca (Svk) 1min 32.042sec; 2, Bonomi, Negri (It) 1:32.286; 3, Bartal, *Horvath (Hun)* 1:32.938. Fours: Canoe: 200 metres: 1, Prochazka, Krivanek, Fuksa, Kozack (Cz) 34.593sec; 2, Meseko, Renersk, Belaev, Pletnev (Bela) *34.629;* 3, Konovalov, Fomitchev, Ladotcha, Kostoglod (Russ) 34.721. 500 metres: 1, *Horvath, Kolonics, Szuszko, Hutmer (Hun)* 1min 37.699sec; 2, Andriev, Popescu, Pasca, Avenan (Rom) 1:37.723; 3, Konovalov, Polzunov, Ladocsa, Kabanov (Russ) 1:39.775. 1,000 metres: 1, C Horvath, B Belicza, L Szuszko, C Huttner (Hun) 03min 36.876sec; 2, K Fomichev, V Maiov, A Kabanov, I Kovalev (Russ) 03:40.680; 3, M Doktor, P Netusil, J Machac, V Jirasky (CZ) 03:41.736. Kayak 200 metres: final: 1, Kajner, Fehervari, Bee, Hegedus (Hun) *31.156sec*; 2, Rossi, Bonomi, Lussignoli, Negri (It) 31.495; 3, Gierso, Fjeldhem, Holmann, Hangali (Nor) 31.555. *500 metres: 1, Gutsche, Zabel,* Bach, Ulm (Ger) 1min 24.959sec; 2, Storz, Bartlai, Szadovszky, Bauer (Hun) 1:25.763; 3, Tissin, Tchegolhin, GAnkin, Zarubin (Russ) 1:25.971. 1,000 metres: 1, T Gutsche, M Zabel, B Bach, S Ulm (Ger) 03min 06.557sec; 2, B Storcz, K Bartlai, Z Szadovszki, M Bauer (Hun) 03:07.373; 3, A Tichchenko, S Verlime, G Tsybulnikov, A Ivannik (Russ) 03:09.779. Women: Singles: Kayak: 500 meters: 1, C Brunet (Can) 1min 55.174sec; 2, *K Borchert (Aus)* 1:56.722; 3, J Idem (It) 1:56.774. 1,000 metres: 1, J Idem (It) 04min 05.198sec; 2, C Brunet (Can) 04:06.006; 3, *K Borchert (Aus)* 04:08.550. Pairs: 200 meters: 1, Gibeau-Ouimet, Fumeaux (Can) 38.770sec; 2, Dekany, Koban (Hun) *38.790; 3, Manchon,* Aramburu (Sp) 38.914. 500 metres: 1, Y Borchert, A Wood (Aus) 1min 50.692sec; 2, B Fischer, A Schuck (Ger) 1:51.068; 3, K Dekany, R Koban (Hun) 1:52.108. 1,000 *metres: 1, A Wood, K Borchert (Aus)* 03:52.892; 2, B Fischer, U Plessman (Ger) 03:53.028; 3, A Karlsson, S Gunnarsson (Swe) *03:55.598.* Fours: *200 metres:* 1, Dekany, Viski, Koban, Kovacs (Hon) 36.889sec; 2, Karlsson, Gunnarsson, Encsson, Haglund (Swe) *37.485; 3, Gulq,* Tisma, Pessahovits, Tichtchenko (Russ) 37.485. 500m: 1, Fischer, Schuck, Mucke, Bednar (Ger) 1min 42.939sec; 2, Dekany, Szabo, Barocs, Kovacs (Hun) 1:43.991; 3, *Manchon, Aramburu, Penas, Sanchez (Sp)* 1:45.227

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of four: Chesterfield: Nottingham 74 and 440-4 dec (U Afzaal 127, M P Dowman 123 not out, N A Gie 99). Derbyshire 376-6 dec (S Ahmed 178 not out, A P Woolley 51). Match drawn. Final day of three: Worcester: Worcestershire 313 and 208; Hampshire *173 and 219* (J S Laney 50; J De La Pena 4-69). Worcestershire won by 130 runs. Orsted CC: Durham 158 (C G *Greenidge 4-26) and 228 (P L Carlin 78,* C J Hewson 62, R M Amm 5-69, G J Batty 4-33). Surrey 249 (G A Knott 70, J D Radcliffe 52, *N C Phillips 5-54) and 128-7 (G A Knott* 50 not out). Match drawn. Colchester: Essex 138 and 136 (D Shadford 8-56). *Lancashire 216-7 dec (R Green 50 not out)* and 49-2. Lancashire won by eight wickets. Kenilworth Wardens CC: Middlesex 222 and 280 (B L Hutton 74, *M J W Wright 56);* Warwickshire 296-9 (G D Franklin 80 not out, O Rashid 6-90) and 210-2 (M A Sheikh 103 not out, T L Penney 63). Warwickshire won by eight wickets.

CYCLING

CORDONA: Tour of Spain: First stage results (161.7km): 1, M Zberg (Switz) 4hr 11min 08sec; 2, G Figueras (It); 3, L Jalabert (Fr); 4, A Tchmil-(Bel); 5, M Rittsel (Swe); 6, E Agnano (It); 7, P Petegem (Bel); *8, A Edo (Sp); 9, N Mattan (Bel);* 10, F Guidi (It) all at the same time. Overall positions: 1, Zberg 4hr 10min 58sec; 2, Figueras at *4sec; 3, Jalabert same time; 4, Guidi 9; 5, U* Etxebarria (Ven) same time; 6, F Cerezo (Sp) 10; 7, Tchmil 12; 8, Rittsel same time; 9, Aggiano 10; P Pelegem (Bel). British placing: 150, C Boardman 15.03

SWYNNERTON, Staffordshire: Brian Rourke Cycles Grand Prix Premier Calendar series (103 miles): 1, M Lovatt (Team Ambrosia) *3hr 56min 14sec; 2, R Lyne* (Team Bristol) at 45sec; 3, J Clay (Team Brite) at 1.11

DOVE HOLES, Buxton: National Veterans' Championship (63 miles): 1, G Hill (Dinnington RC) 2hr 51min 13sec; 2, P Axe (Universal CC); 3, W Gibb (Johnstone Wheelers), both same time. Over-50 (53 miles): I Jewell (Team Corridori) 2:25:41.

CAMPSIE GLEN: Scottish Junior Championship (58 miles): 1, A Ross (Caithness CC) 2hr 41min; 2, S Campbell (Midlothian RT) at 4.06; 3, R Scott (Clarke Contracts RT) at 4.08

TELFORD, Wrekinsport (53 miles): 1, M Lamer (Lichfield City CC) 2:09:37; 2, M Collis (Solo *RT); 3, A Collis (Solo RT) both* same time

BENTLEY, Hampshire: GHS National schools' championship (10-mile): 1, K Page (MCS RT, Isle of Wight) 22min 18sec; 2, B Hallam (Team Brite) 22:30; 3, M Baker (Pensby HS, Wirral) 22:40. Team: Team *Brite 1:09:22.* Girls: N Cooke (Brynteg Comp, South Wales) 24:17.

RANBY, Nottinghamshire: North Midlands *CF (100 miles): 1, C Stanforth (JE James* RT) 3hr 58min 10sec; 2, P Rayner (Welland Valley Wheelers) 3:56:50; 3, R Jackson *(Hounslow and District Wheelers) 3:57:19.* Team: Rutland CC 12:23:23

TADCASTER, North Yorkshire: Clifton CC (50 miles): 1, D Watts (Halifax RC) 1hr 49min 48sec; 2, J Wainman (Hull Thursday RC) 1:49:54; 3, J Evans (Kent Valley RC) 1:49.58. Team: Airedale Olympic 6:20:50.

BROXTON: Chester RC (50 miles): 1, D Feeley (Rhyl CC) 1hr 52min 53sec; 2, S Hulme (Team Velocity) 1:53:41; 3, M Isherwood (Southport CC) 1:55:20. Team: *Rhyl CC 6:05:34*

MAIDSTONE: Kent CA (50 miles): 1, A Archer (GS Invicta) 1hr 53min 07sec; 2, N *Baker (VC Deal) 1:58:13; 3,* C Bax (Thanet RC) 2:00.54. Team: Thanet RC 6:21:20

SAWSTON, Cambridgeshire: Eagle RC *(50 miles): 1, R Pope (Finsbury Park CC)* 1:54.15; 2, P Smith (Shaftesbury CC) 1:55:17; 3, R Hutt (Team Chiltern) 1:57.14. Team: Finsbury Park CC *6.22.25.*

BENTLEY, Hampshire: Border CA (30 miles): 1, M Hutchinson (Cambridge University CC) 1hr 02min 37sec (course record); 2, E Deane (Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers) 1:05:38; 3, P Rogers (VC St Raphael) 1:05:51. Team: Charlotteville CC 3.29.12.

HATFIELD PEVEREL, Essex: Eastern Counties CA (25 miles): 1, S Yates (Team Clean) 47min 08sec (course record); 2, S *Chrna (API Resprays) 50.13; 3, L Palmer (Leo RC) 50.54.* Team: Eastbourne Rovers 2:40.54

EQUESTRIANISM

BURGHLEY: Pedigree Chum Horse Trials: 1, Chesterfield (B Tait, NZ) 67.80pts; 2, *Aspyring (B Tait, NZ) 82.00; 3, Hinnegar (A* Nicholson, NZ) 92.0; 4, Bally Free (J Tulloch, GB) 95.80; 5, Silence (D Jocelyn, NZ) 101.6; 6, Cornish Envoy (K Parker, GB) 103.00; 7, Kibah Sandstone (M Ryan, Australia) 104.6; 8, Menfion (A Nicholson, NZ) 106.20; 9, Fairdinkum (P Dutton, Australia) 109.40; 10, Mr Bumble (N Tweddle, GB) 118.60

GOLF

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland: *Canon European Masters:* Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 263: S Struver (Ger) 69, 63, 65, 68, *P Sjoland (Swe) 65, 66, 62, 70 (Struver won* at first play-off hole). 265: D Clarke 64, 68, 66, 67. 268: C Rocca (It) 67, 66, 67, 68. 269: A Cejka (Ger) 70, 66, 67, 66; G Brand Jnr 68, 68, 66, 67. 270: M A Jiménez (Sp) 67, 69, 70, 64; J Van de Velde (Fr) 67, 66, 72, 65; R Karlsson (Swe) 69, 69, 66, 66; M Gronberg (Swe) 69, 68, 64, 69. 271: S Henderson 68, 66, 68, 69. 272: C Montgomerie 70, 66, 69, 67; S Torrance 67, 68, 70, 67; L Westwood 70, 68, 66, 68.

BALLYLIFFIN: Donegal Irish Open: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated). 214: I Tinning (Den) 73, 73, 68; S Gustafson (Swe) 68, 78, 68 (Gustafson won at first play-off hole). 218: A Gottmo (Swe) 70, 78, 70. 220: A Rogers 73, 76, 71. 221: J Forbes 78, 74, 69. 222: L *Davies 77, 75, 70; M Pistolet-Boselli (Fr)* 75, 76, 71; R Carriedo (Sp) 71, 76, 75. 223: M Hageman (Holl) 75, 74, 74. 224: L Greve (Den) 75, 77, 72; J Head 72, 79, 73; K Larsson (Swe) 76, 74, 74; A-M Knight (Aus) 73, 76, 75; A Larraneta (Sp) 73, 75, 76

DALMAHOY, Edinburgh: Scottish Seniors Open: Leaders after three rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 205: D Huish 70, 65, 70. 206: D Jones 68, 70, 70. 208: D Oakley (US) 72, 70, 66; B Brask (US) 74, 66, 68. 209: J Carr (US) 73, 66, 70; A Garrido (Sp) 70, 67, 72. 210: M Gregson 75, 69, 66; J Rhodes 74, 69, 67; T Horton 70, 72, 68; *T Gale (Aus)* 72, 66, 72. 211: C O'Connor Jr 69, 71, 71.

PORTLAND, Oregon: LPGA championship: *Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated):* 132: Danielle Ammaccapane 65, 67. 135: E Klein 68, 67. 138: J Inkster 70, 68; E Wicoff 70, 68; T Barrett 69, 69; C Sorenstam (Swe) 69, 69. 139: D Andrews 72, 67; S Turner 70, 69; M Hjorth (Swe) 70, 69. 141: L Earley 72, 69; Se Ri Pak (S Kor) 72, 69; D Ammaccapane 71, *70; P Hurst 68, 73.* 142: A Benz 74, 68; D Richard 73, 69; D Pepper 72, 70; K Saiki 72, 70; K Albers 71, 71; K Webb (Aus) 71, 71; C Kerr 71, 71; *R Hetherington (Aus) 71, 71.* 143: M Lunn (Aus) 70, 73

GREATER MILWAUKEE OPEN: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 197: J Sluman 68, 66, 63; C Perry 68, 62, 67. 198: S Stricker 68, 63, 67. 199: N Henke 70, 62, 67; M Calcavecchia 66, 64, 69. 200: J Maginnes 67, 65, 68. 201: J Lewis 74, 63, 64; K *Wentworth 68, 65, 68;* D Ogrin 69, 64, 68; M Carnevale 68, 66, 69. 202: T Armour 68, 68, 66; D Barron 67, 67, 68; G Hjertstedt (Swe) 66, 67, 69.

HOCKEY

HARLESTON TOURNAMENT: Harleston *M 2 Anchorians 0, Bromley 3 City of* Portsmouth 4, Havant 4 Norton 0, Magpies 2 City of Portsmouth 3; Anchorians 3 Norton 2; Havant 7 Bromley 1.

QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT (in *Bournemouth):* Bournemouth 1 Oxford Hawks 4, Beckenham 0 Firebrands 2, Bournemouth 2 Firebrands 0; Beckenham 2 Oxford Hawks 3

MOTORCYCLING

IMOLA, San Marino: Grand Prix: 125cc: 1, T Manako (Japan, Honda) 42min 05.831sec; 2, M Melandri (It, Honda) 42:05.918; 3, *M Azuma (Japan, Honda)* 42:16.225; 4, K Sakata (Japan, Aprilia) 42:16.297; 5, M Tokudome (Japan, Aprilia) 42:28.530. World standings: 1, Sakata 198pts; 2, Melandri 158; 3, Manako 147. 250cc: 1, V Rossi (It, Aprilia) 43min 43.815sec; 2, L Capirossi (It, Aprilia) 43:46.502; 3, S Perugini (It, Honda) 43:47.990; 4, T Ukawa (Japan, Honda) 43:50.339; 5, O Jacque (Fr, Honda) 44:12.995; 6, H Aoki (Japan, Honda) *44:15.430.* World standings: 1, T Harada (Japan, Aprilia) 180pts; 2, Capirossi 168; 3, Rossi 128. 500cc: 1, M Doohan (Aus, Honda) *46min 092sec;* 2, A *Criville (Sp,* Honda) 46:06.656; 3, M Biaggi (It, Honda) 46:08.813; 4, A Barros (Br, Honda) 46:11.336. World *standings: 1, Biaggi* 189pts; 2, Doohan 185; 3, Criville 182

MOTOR RACING

DONINGTON PARK: *FIA Grand Touring* Car Championship: Seventh round (125 laps, 312 miles): 1, B Schneider and M Webber (Ger/Aus, Mercedes CLK LM) 3hr 05min 00.731sec; 2, K Ludwig and R Zonta *(Ger/Br, Mercedes CLK LM) at 45.320sec;* 3, Y Dalmas and A McNish (Fr/GB, Porsche 911) one lap.

SAILING

MILWAUKEE, United States: Soling World Championships: Final overall results (after nine races): 1, G *Shaiduko,* S Komarov and S Volchkov (Russ) 112pts; 2, S Pichugin, V Korotkov and S Timokhov (Ukr) 114; 3, P Cian, *P L Fornelli and F Colaninno (It)* 132. British placings: 14, A Beadsworth, B Parkin and R Sydenham 160.

ROWING

COLOGNE, Germany: World Championships: Preliminary round (all races 2,000 metres): Men: Lightweight single sculls: Heat 1: 1, M Vabrousek (Cz) 7min 13.48sec. Heat 2: 1, *H Karrash (Aus)* 7:04.41; Heat 3: 1, K Nielsen (Den) 7:06.99. Heat 4: 1, S Basilm (It) 7:03.75. Heat 5: 1, *M Baenninger (Switz) 6:58.47.* Heat 6: 1, J Martinez (US) 6:58.50. Single sculls: Heat 1: 1, X Mueller (Switz) 6:54.97. Heat 2: 1, R Waddell (NZ) 6:47.57. Heat 3: 1, Iztok Cop (Slovenia) 6:57.03. Heat 4: 1, Vaclav Chalupa (Czech Republic) 6:53.15. Coxless pairs (winner to semi-final, rest to repechage): Heat 1: 1, United States (C *Beasley and J A Holland)* 6:32.82. Heat 2: 1, Germany (R Sens and D Kirchhoff) 6:37.55. Heat 3: 1, Italy *(F Mattei* and W Bottega) 6:38.21. Heat 4: 1, Yugoslavia (D Visacki and N Stojic) 6:35.69. Coxless fours (winner to semi-finals, rest to repechage): Heat 1: 1, Great Britain (J *Cracknell, S Redgrave,* T Foster and M Pinsent) 6:04.38. Heat 2: 1, Italy (W Molea, R Di Rossi, L Carboncini and C Mornati) 6:04.03. Heat 3: 1, Australia (G Stewart, B Hanson, B Dodwell and J Stewart) 6:03.55. Coxed pairs (winner through to final, rest to repechage): *Heat 1: 1, Italy (R Gioia, G* Cascone and G Barattolo) 6:54.68. Heat 2: 1, Australia (N Green, J Tomkins and B Hayman) 6:56.82. Women: Double sculls (first three to semi-finals, rest to repechage): Heat 1: 1, Holland (P van Dishoeck, E van Nes) 7:01.41; 2, United States (C Skrodi and L Korholz) 7:02.93; 3, Switzerland *(B Wicki and C Luethi)* 7:03.54. Heat 2: 1, Great Britain (M Batten and G Lindsay) 6:58.37; 2, Romania (D Ignat and I Olteanu) *7:01.86; 3, Germany (C Barth and N* Sterner) 7:04.29. Heat 3: 1, China (Sun Guangxia and Zhang Xiuyun) 7:04.25; 2, France *(G Bumet and S Balmary)* 7:09.30; 3, Canada (M Maunder and T Luke) 7:09.90.

TENNIS

NEW YORK: US Open: *Men: Singles:* Second round: J Siemerink (Holl) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt P Goldstein (US) 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; T *Muster (Austria)* bt W Black (Zim) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0; D Sanguinetti (It) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-6, 7-6, 6-4; D Nainkin (SA) bt G Kuerten *(Br) 2-6,* 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt T Martin (US) 1-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3; B Black (Zim) bt F Vicente (Sp) 7-6, 6-1, 7-5; T Henman (GB) *bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6-3,* 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; N Kiefer (Ger) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-4, 7-6, 6-1; C Gross (Ger) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-1, 6-3, 6-4; *R Krajicek (Holl) bt A O'Brien (US)* 6-1, 7-6, 6-2; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt T Haas (Ger) 7-5, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5; M Larsson (Swe) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; M Kohlmann (Ger) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 7-5, 6-4, 6-4. Third round: Rafter bt Nainkin 6-1, 6-1, 6-1; Ivanisevic bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 7-6, 6-3, 6-4; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt Santoro 6-3, 6-1, 6-2; *Salm bt Muster 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3;* A Agassi (US) bt Sanguinetti 6-2, 6-3, 6-0; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt A Voinea (Rom) 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; Siemerink bt G Rusedski (GB) *4-6,* 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; Sampras bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-2, 6-3, 6-1. Doubles: First round: D Adams (SA) and O Delaitre (Ger) bt D Bowen (US) and T Zdrazila (Cz) 6-3, 6-2; L Lobo (Arg) *and J Sanchez (Sp)* bt T Carbonell and F Roig (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; L Bale (SA) and D Sapsford (GB) bt J Novak and D Rikl (Cz) 6-4, 6-3; *M Bhupathi and L Paes (India)* bt K Braasch (Ger) and M Ondruska (SA) 6-2, 6-4. Second round: S Stolle (Aus) and C Suk (Cz) bt C Haggard (SA) and J Waite (US) 7-6, 6-4; T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) bt D DiLucia (US) *and M Sell (US)* 6-3, 7-5; N Broad (GB) and P Norval (SA) bt M Kohlmann (Ger) and M Rush (Ven) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; M Damm (Cz) and J Grabb (US) bt *M Merklein* (US) and V Spadea (US) 7-6, 6-0; B Coupe (US) and D Randall (US) bt D Macpherson (Aus) and D Wheaton (US) 7-6, 6-0; M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt J Gimelstob (US) and J Stark (US) 6-1, 7-6; J-L de Jager and R Koenig (SA) bt L Arnold (Arg) and D Roditi (Mex) 7-5, 6-3. Third round: Lobo and Sánchez bt B Black (Zim) and A O'Brien (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. Women: Singles: Second round: C Martinez (Sp) bt J Trail (US) 7-6, 6-1; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt C Rubin (US) 7-6, 6-4; A Kournikova (Russ) bt R Bobkova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4. Third round: J *Novotna (Cz)* bt S Testud (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; M Seles (US) bt A Miller (US) 6-3, 6-3; N Dechy (Fr) bt G Leon Garcia (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; P Schnyder *(Switz) bt M J Fernandez (US)* 6-1, 7-6; S Graf (Ger) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-1, 6-1; K Po (US) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-4, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt B Schett *(Austria)* 3-6, 6-0, 6-3; V Williams (US) bt L Nelland (Lat) 5-0, ret; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt S Pitkowski *(Fr)* 6-2, 6-3; N *Tauziat (Fr) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia)* 6-1, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt V Ruano Pascual (Sp) 6-2, 6-1; A Kournikova (Russ) bt S Farina (It) 6-4, 6-1; *M Pierce (Fr) bt L Golarsa (It)* 6-1, 6-0; C Martinez (Sp) bt L Raymond (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Doubles: Second round: L Raymond (US) *and R Stubbs (Aus) bt S Jeyaseelan and R* Simpson (Can) 6-3, 6-4; C Dhenin and E Loit (Fr) bt N Kijimuta and N Miyagi (Japan) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; L Davenport (US) *and N Zvereva (Bela)* bt E de Lone (US) and N Pratt (Aus) 6-3, 6-3; R Dragomir (Rom) and I Majoli (Cro) bt K Adams (US) and *M Bollegraf (Holl)* 6-3, 1-6, 6-1; K Kschwendt (Austria) and A-G Sidot (Fr) bt A Fusai and N Tauziat (Fr) 6-1, 7-5; A Frazier (US) and K Schlukebir (Kalamazoo) bt A Kournikova (Russ) and L Nelland (Lat) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; M de Swardt (SA) and D Graham (US) bt M Babel (Ger) and M Paz (Arg) 6-1, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) and J Novotna (Cz) bt K Habsudova (Svk) and T Tanasugarn (Thai) 7-6, 6-0; M Saeki and Y Yoshida (Japan) bt Y Basuki (Indo) and C Vis (Holl) 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; J *Halard-Decugis (Fr)* and R McQuillan (Aus) bt F Labat (Arg) and D Van Roost (Bel) 7-5, 4-6, 7-5; C Rubin (US) and I Spirlea (Rom) bt O *Lugina and E Tatarkova (Ukr)* 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; B Schett *(Austria) and P Schnyder (Switz)* bt C Singer (Ger) and H Vildova (Cz) 6-1, 7-5; L *Osterloh and M Washington (US)* bt V Csurgo (Hun) and E h Kim (S Kor) 6-0, 6-1; M J Fernandez (US) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt C Barclay *and K A Guse (Aus) 6-3, 6-1. Third* round: V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) and P Suarez (Arg) bt K Kschwendt (Austria) and A G Sidot (Fr) 6-4, 6-2. *Mixed Doubles: Second round:* R Stubbs (Aus) and J Grabb (US) bt K A Guse and A Kratzman (Aus) 6-2, 7-5; D Graham (US) and S Stolle (Aus) bt C Morariu and B McPhie (US) 6-3, 6-4; M Lucic (Cro) and M Bhupathi (India) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) and M Cosling (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; V Williams (US) and J Gimelstob (US) bt K Kunce (Aus) and F Montana (US) 6-3, 6-3



STEFANO RELLANDINI

Valentino Rossi, of Italy negotiates a curve on the way to victory in the 250cc San Marino motorcycling grand prix at Imola yesterday. Tetsuya Harada, of Japan, was not so lucky, *but remounted to finish tenth.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Castleford 30 Salford 12

Castleford: Tries: Davis 2, Orr 2, M Smith. Goals: Orr 3, Davis 2. Salford: Tries: Hulme, Waring. Goals: *Blakeley 2. Att: 4,865*

Halifax 33 Sheffield 16

Halifax: Tries: Bloem 3, Bouveng 2, Harrison, Powell. Goals: Pearson 2. *Dropped goal:* Lynch. *Sheffield: Tries:* Carr, Morganson, Senior. Goals: Aston, Wood. Att: 4,628

Warrington 36 Huddersfield 8

Warrington: Tries: Eager 2, Briers, Farrar, Forster, McCurrie, Pechey. Goals: Briers 4. Huddersfield: Try: Cheetham. Goals: Goulding 2. Att: 4,908

Wigan 58 Hull 6

Wigan: Tries: Gilmour 2, Paul 2, Robinson 2, *Bell, Connolly, Farrell, P Johnson, Radlinski,* Smith. Goals: Farrell 5. Hull: Try: Seru. Goal: Prescott. Att: 7,930

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Leeds 37 St Helens 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	20	18	0	2	660	192	36
Leeds	20	17	0	3	552	293	34
Halifax	20	15	0	5	538	350	30
St Helens	20	12	0	8	554	405	24
*Bradford	19	10	0	9	410	352	20
Sheffield	20	7	2	11	442	466	16
*London	19	8	0	11	332	390	16
Castleford	20	8	0	12	359	452	16
Warrington	20	7	1	12	373	544	15
Hull	20	7	0	13	343	478	14
Salford	20	6	1	13	283	467	13
Huddersfield	20	2	0	18	238	685	4

** Does not include last night's match*

First division

Grand Final Series play-off

Hull KR 18 Dewsbury 2

Hull KR: Tries: Danby, Hill. Goals: M Fletcher 4. Dropped goals: Charles, Gene. Dewsbury: Goal: Eaton. Att: 2,649

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wakefield	30	22	1	7	790	506	45
Hull KR	30	20	1	9	748	480	41
Dewsbury	30	19	2	9	723	481	40
Featherstone	30	17	1	12	779	613	35
Swinton	30	17	1	12	702	544	35
Hunslet	30	17	1	12	719	575	35
Keighley	30	14	1	15	687	675	29
Whitehaven	30	13	0	17	636	657	26
Widnes	30	9	1	20	601	862	19
Rochdale	30	6	1	23	571	912	13
Leigh	30	6	0	24	505	1056	12

Second division

Bramley 26 Barrow 22

Bramley: Tries: W Freeman, A Gibbons, Lawford, Poynter. Goals: Lawford 3, Smith 2. Barrow: Tries: Atkinson, Burns, Manihera, Marwood. Goals: Atkinson 3

Lancashire 22 Batley 31

Lancashire Lynx: Tries: Abram 3, Donno. Goals: P Jones 3. Batley: Tries: Dyson 2, Simpson 2, Gleadhill. Goals: Price 5. Dropped goal: Cass. Att: 1,079

Oldham 8 York 38

Oldham: Try: Jackman. Goals: Quinlan 2. York: Tries: Austerfield 2, Godfrey 2, A Preston, Ramsden, Strange. Goals: Booth 4, Carr. Att: 1,440

Workington 20 Doncaster 12

Workington: Tries: Close, Henare, Keenan. Stalker. Goals: Branthwaite 2. Doncaster: Tries: Alex Goulbourne, Alfie Goulbourne. Goals: Conway 2. Att: 500

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lancashire	20	13	2	5	561	339	28
York	20	14	0	6	476	280	28
Batley	20	13	0	7	437	354	26
Bramley	20	12	1	7	487	396	25
Oldham	20	10	1	9	399	383	21
Barrow	20	8	2	10	354	377	18
Workington	20	3	2	15	293	558	8
Doncaster	20	2	2	16	289	619	6

National Conference League

Premier division

Castleford LL	12	Heworth	14
Egremont	30	Beverley East Hull	0
Leigh MR	23	Wigan St Pat's	16
Saddleworth	8	Skirlaugh	31
Thornhill	18	Askam	13
Walney Central	22	Woolston	14
West Hull	18	Oldham St Annes	4

First division

Milford	16	Dudley Hill	26
Millom	8	Barrow Island	14
Moldgreen	18	Shaw Cross	8
Rochdale Mayfield	8	East Leeds	25
Siddal	24	Oulton	1
Wigan St Judes	12	Leigh East	15

Second division

Crosfields	28	York Acorn	20
Dewsbury Moor	6	Eccles	54
Eastmoor	38	Normanton	12
Hull Dockers	26	*Dodworth*	8
Ideal Isberg	14	Blackbrook	14
Keighley Alb	25	Ovenden	4
New Earswick	12	London Skolars	18

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Elim*ination final:* Melbourne 24 Canberra 10. Qualifying final: Newcastle 15 Sydney City 26

SCHOOLS SPORT

ATHLETICS: Birmingham: Young Athletes Leagues Auxiliary Finals: Boys: 1, Blackheath 431.5pts; 2, Shaftesbury Barnet 426.5; 3, Wirral 416.5; 4, Cannock and Stafford 366.5; 5, Halesowen 352; 6, St Columbs 345.5; 7, Trafford 285.5; 8, BP Black Isle 196. Athletes of the Match: Track: Under-13 1,500m: S Hall (Shaftesbury Barnet) 4min 40.65sec. Field: Under-15 Hammer: T Dempsey (Halesowen) 57.15m. Girls: 1, Basildon 360pts; 2, Coventry Godiva 329; 3, Edinburgh Woollen Mill 274; 4, Wakefield 272.5; 5, Cardiff 264; 6, Blackpool and Fylde 261.5; 7, Lagan Valley 261; 8, *Horsham Blue Star 214.* Athletes of the Match: Track: Under-17 300m: F Watts (Basildon) 38.92sec. Field: Under-13 Shot: R Bashforth (Blackpool and Fylde) 9.20m.

CRICKET: Lancashire Ainsworth Trophy: Semi-final: Salford 112 Rochdale 113-4.

FOOTBALL: OEGS Blackburn 0 Blue Coats Liverpool 2. Northern Merit League: Leeds 1 South Cheshire 1: Wigan 4 Kirkby 1.

GOLF: Stowe School, National Prep school championship: Over-13: 1, J P *Turner (The Perse)* 53pts; 2, C E Richardson (Elstree) 53; 3, P J Bickerton (St Hugh's) and R Frampton (Millfield) 48. Under-13: A M Boyce (Cheltenham College) 49pts; 2, J R J Macdonald *(Caldicott) 47; 3, A E Morton (The Old* Hall) 46. Under-12: 1, L Guttendge (Lochinver House) 51; 2, T L McPhail (Craigclowan) 47; 3, R P Kennedy (Hurstpierpoint) 42. Overall result: 1, *Turner* 53pts; 2, Richardson 53; 3, Guttendge 51. Leading Schools: 1, Millfield 94pts; 2, Elstree 92

RUGBY UNION: Bryanston 34 Portsmouth GS 12; John Fisher 24 Dulwich Coll 7; Loughborough GS 20 Stamford *11; RGS High Wycombe 50 Hampton 12;* John Cleveland College 38 Oundle College 20

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Cleveland 10 Detroit 2; Toronto 12 Boston 1; New York *Yankees 11 Chicago White Sox 6; Texas 9* Minnesota 3; Kansas City 5 Anaheim 3; Baltimore 10 Seattle 1; Tampa Bay 5 Oakland 2. Saturday: *Toronto 4 Boston 3;* Seattle 6 Baltimore 5; Chicago White Sox 9 New York Yankees 5; Cleveland 5 Detroit 4; Minnesota 7 Texas 4; Oakland 3 Tampa Bay 0; Anaheim 2 Kansas City 1

East division	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	100	39	.719	—
Boston	81	59	.579	19½
Toronto	76	66	.535	25½
Baltimore	70	71	.496	31
Tampa Bay	55	86	.390	46
Central division				
Cleveland	79	62	.560	—
Kansas City	65	76	.461	14
Chicago WS	65	76	.461	14
Minnesota	63	78	.447	16
Detroit	53	89	.373	26½
West division				
Anaheim	78	64	.549	—
Texas	75	68	.532	2½
Oakland	65	77	.458	13
Seattle	64	76	.457	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 8 Florida 0; Chicago Cubs 5 Pittsburgh 2; New York Mets 2 Atlanta 1; Philadelphia 6 Milwaukee 2; Cincinnati 3 St Louis 2; Colorado 11 San *Diego 5; Arizona 3 Houston 1; Los Angeles* 8 San Francisco 5. Saturday: New York Mets 5 Atlanta 4; St Louis 7 Cincinnati 0; *San Diego 4 Colorado 2; Houston 6 Arizona* 5 (12inns); Los Angeles 6 San Francisco 3; Montreal 7 Florida 1; Chicago Cubs 8 Pittsburgh 4; Milwaukee 3 *Philadelphia 2* (14inns)

East division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	91	51	.641	—
NY Mets	79	63	.556	12
Philadelphia	67	75	.472	24
Montreal	55	88	.385	36½
Florida	47	95	.331	44
Central division				
Houston	89	53	.627	—
Chicago Cubs	80	62	.563	9
St Louis	68	73	.482	20½
Milwaukee	67	75	.472	22
Cincinnati	66	76	.465	23
Pittsburgh	64	76	.457	24
West division				
San Diego	91	51	.641	—
San Francisco	76	66	.535	15
Los Angeles	72	70	.507	19
Colorado	65	78	.455	26½
Arizona	57	86	.399	34½

ATHLETICS

TRACK AND FIELD

MOSCOW: IAAF Golden League Grand Prix Final: Men: 100m: 1, F Fredericks (Namibia) 10.11sec; 2, O Thompson (Barb) 10.11; 3, T Harden (US) 10.12. *400m: 1, M Richardson (GB) 44.88;* 2, J Young (US) 44.96; 3, I Thomas (GB) 44.96. 1,500m: 1, H Gerrouj (Mor) 3min 32.03sec; 2, L Rotich (Ken) 3.33.04; 3, W Tanui (Ken) 3:33.30. 3,000m: 1, H *Gebreselassie (Eth) 7min 50.00sec;* 2, L Kipkosgei (Ken) 7.50.87; 3, J Gitahi (Ken) 7:51.49. 400m hurdles: 1, S Diagana (Fr) *48.30sec; 2, D Morgan (Jam) 48.60; 3, S* Matete (Zam) 48.73. Pole vault: 1, M *Tarasov (Russ) 5.95m; 2, J Galfione (Fr)* 5.90; 3, D Ecker (Ger) 5.80. Hammer: 1, T Gecsek (Hun) 81.21m; 2, B Kiss (Hun) *78.71; 3, A Aboduvaliev (Uzb) 78.30.* High jump: 1, J Sotomayor (Cuba) 2.31m; 2, S Strand (Swe) 2.28; 3, C Austin (US) 2.28. Shot: 1, J Godina (US) 21.21m; 2, Y Belonog (Ukr) 20.62; 3, O-S Buder (Ger) 20.53. *Triple jump:* 1, C Friedek (Ger) 17.33m; 2, D Kasputin (Russ) 17.01; 3, A Glavatski (Bela) 16.98. Women: 100m: 1, *M Jones (US) 10.83sec; 2, S Fynes (Bah)* *11.10;* 3, I Miller (US) 11.15. 400m: 1, F Ogunkoya (Nigeria) 49.73; 2, C Opara (Nigeria) 50.09; 3, S Richards (Jam) 50.44. 1,500m: 1, S Masterkova (Russ) *4min 3.80sec; 2, K Dulecha (Eth) 4.04.72;* 3, C Sacramento (Por) 4.05.82. 3,000m: 1, G Wami (Eth) 8:40.11; 2, Z Ouaziz (Mor) *8:40.45;* 3, M Pantyukova (Russ) 8.47.77. 100m hurdles: 1, M Freeman (Jam) 12.56sec; 2, M Morrison (US) 12.63; 3, G Alozie (Nigeria) 12.72. Long jump: 1, M Jones (US) 7.13m; 2, H *Drechsler (Ger) 6.99;* 3, F May (It) 6.89. Discus: 1, N Sadova (Russ) 68.50m; 2, F Dietzsch (Ger) 65.24; 3, N Grasu (Rom) 65.10. Javelin: 1, T Damaske (Ger) 68.40m; 2, T Shikolenko (Russ) 67.84; 3, T Hattestad (Nor) 67.26

SOLIHULL: British Milers Club Meeting: Men: 800m A: 1, A Hart (Coventry *Godiva) 1min 47.13sec;* 2, S Lees (Solihull and Small Heath) 1.47.69; 3, M Shone (Notts) 1:48.39; 4, C Moss (Blackheath) 1.48.43; 5, A Chircher (Kenya) 1.52.95. B: 1, A Donaldson (Newham and Essex Beagles) 1min 49.16sec; 2, S Bailey (Wigan) 1:49.57. Mile: 1, E Maranga (Kenya) 3min 58.11sec; 2, J McIlroy (Ballymena and Antrim) 3:59.58; 3, D Burrows (Birchfield) 3.59.91; 4, T Mayo (Cannock and *Stafford)* 4:00.02; 5, S *Barden (GEC* Avionics) 4.00.73; 6, Andrew Graffin (Tonbridge) 4.02.05. British Athletics *Endurance Initiative 5,000m: 1, B Mayo* (Ken) 13min 42.02sec; 2, P Mowbray (City of Edinburgh) 14:02.41; 3, N Comerford (Cardiff) 14:04.47; 4, N Wetheridge (Basildon) 14.11.51; 5, M Palmer (Yate) 14.18.00; 6, Allen Graffin (Tonbridge) 14:24.04. Women: 800m: 1, D Modahl (Sale) 2min 01.93sec; 2, B Blakeman (Sunderland) 2:05.33; 3, *M Lynch (Ire)* 2:06.87; 4, A Davies (Basingstoke and Mid Hants) 2:07.41; 5, R Buller (City of Norwich) 2:07.56; 6, A Carter (Vale Royal) 2:08.30. 1,500m: 1, L Gibson (Oxford *City) 4min 00.84sec;* 2, *H Pattinson* (Preston) 4:17.05; 3, J Colleran (Liverpool) 4:19.59; 4, A Parkinson (Sale) 4:19.96; 5, K Smithson (Sale) 4:21.81; 6, J Brown (Bournemouth) 4:23.63

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S LEAGUE: First division: Basildon: 1,500m: D Sullivan (Havering Mayesbrook) 4min 34.5sec. 100m hurdles: S Porter (Sutton) 14.7sec. Triple jump: S Wellstead (Sutton) 10.86m. Shot: S Drew (Sutton) 11.63m. Discus: Drew 52m. Hammer: A Jenkins (Bedford) 46.22m. Javelin: M Kemp *(Sutton) 40.10m. Match result: 1, Sutton* 186pts; 2, Bedford 177; 3, Havering Mayesbrook 166; 4, City of Norwich 160; 5, Basildon 127. Exeter: 100m: S Davidge (Exeter) 12.0sec. 200m: Davidge 25.3sec. 400m: O Ryan (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 58.9sec. 100m hurdles: N Sutton (Exeter) 14.7sec. 400m *hurdles: Sutton 59.8sec. High jump: A* Bemrose (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 1.65m. Pole vault: N Bradshaw (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 3.40m. Long jump: G Holt (Aldershot, Farnham *and District)* 5.86m. Triple jump: Joli 11.08m. Shot: V Foster (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 14.32m. Discus: D Callaway (Aldershot, *Farnham and District)* 54.94m. Hammer: Callaway 39.51m. Javelin: M Liverton (Exeter) 46.12m. Match result: 1, Aldershot, Farnham and District 217pts; 2, Exeter 216; 3, Ealing, Southall and Middlesex 151; 4, Woking 123.5; 5, Bournemouth 122.5. Harrow: 800m: C Perkins *(Ashford) 2min 13.7sec.* 1,500m: A Whitcombe (Parkside Harrow) 4min 20.7sec. 3,000m: S Morris (Hertford and Ware) 9min 54.0sec. 100m hurdles: K Reynolds (Radley Ladies) 14.7sec. 400m hurdles: J Matthews (Ashford) 59.8. High jump: J Brown (Ashford) 1.63m. Triple jump: Brown 10.20m. Shot: J McPherson (Basingstoke and Mid Hants) 11.91m. Discus: McPherson 41.34m. Hammer: M McCutcheon (Radley Ladies) 40.79m. Javelin: *L M Burrows (Ashford)* 40.76m. Match result: 1, Ashford 199pts; 2, Hertford and Ware 177; 3, Parkside Harrow 162; 4, Basingstoke and Mid Hants 158; 5, Radley Ladies 150. Portsmouth: 100m: C Bloomfield (Essex Ladies) 11.7sec. 200m: Bloomfield 24.1sec. 400m: T Duncan (Essex Ladies) 58.0sec. 800m: Z Hyde (Havant) 2min 15.0sec. 100m hurdles: J Pratt (Essex Ladies) 13.7sec. Pole vault: K Alexander *(Shaftesbury Barnet) 2.60m. Long jump:* C Stead (Essex Ladies) 5.56m. Triple jump: Stead 11.72m. Shot: J Duncan (Essex Ladies) 14.46m. Discus: Dunkley 39.27m. Hammer: E Augee (Essex *Ladies) 48.85m. Javelin: K Morrison* (Medway) 49.30m. Match result: 1, Shaftesbury Barnet 191pts; 2, Essex Ladies 178.5; 3, Medway 165; 4, City of Plymouth 151.5; 5, Havant 144. *Southampton: 200m: M Purkiss (Team* Solent) 24.4sec. 400m: D Bennett (Epsom and Ewell) 57.5sec. 100m hurdles: K Sketchley (Team Solent) 14.8sec. 400m hurdles: N Ceesay (Essex Ladies) 61.5sec. High jump: Bennett 1.70m. Pole vault: C Ridgley (Team Solent) 3.40m. Long jump: Bennett 6.08m. *Triple jump: M Griffith (Windsor,* Slough and Eton) 13.71m (League record). Shot: C Hill (Team Solent) 12.65m. Discus: F Champion (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 41.54m. Hammer: O Kelleher (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 52.51m. Javelin: N Cobb (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 39.49m. Match result: *1, Team Solent 214pts;* 2, Windsor, Slough and Eton 190; 3, Epsom and Ewell 152; 4, Newham and Essex Beagles 145.5; 5, Guildford and Godalming 144.5. Final standings: 1, Aldershot, Farnham *and District 1217pts;* 2, Ashford 1167.5; 3, Windsor, Slough and Eton 1156.5; 4, Team Solent 1124.5; 5, Bedford 1074.5; 6, Basildon 1070; 7, Medway 1036; 8, Epsom and Ewell 1023; 9, Bournemouth 1015; 10, Sutton 1013.5; 11, City of Norwich 995.5; 12, Shaftesbury Barnet 970.5; 13, Radley Ladies 968; 14, *Basingstoke and Mid Hants 966;* 15, Newham and Essex Beagles 961.5; 16, Hertford and Ware 959; 17, Ealing, *Southall and Middlesex 949;* 18, Exeter 947; 19, Parkside Harrow 918; 20, Guildford and Godalming 917.5; 21, City of Plymouth 916; 22, Woking 885.5; 23, Essex Ladies 884.5; 24, Havant 845; 25, Havering Mayesbrook 795.5. Champions: Aldershot, Farnham and District (holders). Relegated to Second division: *City of Plymouth, Essex Ladies, Havant,* Havering Mayesbrook, Woking

ROAD RUNNING

SOUTHWARK PARK: London Women's 10km: 1, D Percival (Medway) 33min 28sec (course record); 2, C Herbert (Arena 80) 35.41; 3, A Fletcher (Dulwich Runners) 36.16. Team: Medway. Veteran over-40: *K Marshall (St Anne's)* 37min 10sec. Over-50: E Cudmore (Colchester) 43min 24sec. Overton: Festival 5 miles: 1, M Steinle (Blackheath) 23min 45sec; 2, J Burke (London Irish) 24:36; 3, J Starling *(Southampton Running Club)* 24.42. Teams: 1, Bournemouth 33pts; 2, Southampton Running Club 35; 3, Aldershot, Farnham and District 43. Veterans: 1, *M Flower* (Waverley) 26min 11sec; 2, A Bridge (Southampton Running Club) 26.16; 3, M Bliss (Overton) 26.37. Over-45: G Rhimes (City of Portsmouth) 26min 49sec. *Over-50: M Walland (Oxford City)* 27min 14sec. Over-55: J Convery (Bracknell) 30min 34sec. Over-60: B Wiltshire (City of Salisbury) 30min 45sec. Veterans teams: 1, Southampton Run*ning Club 34pts;* 2, *Overton 38;* 3, Oxford City 42. Women: 1, M Bradley (Overton) 27min 58sec; 2, D James (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 28.25; 3, K Wilder (Oxford University) 29.23. Veteran: C Doe (Poole Runners) 31min 49sec. Over-50: M Ketelsiegers (Belgium) 32min 20sec. Newport: Transporter Bridge 5km Series: *1, S Tobin (Swansea)* 14min 47sec; 2, M Jenkins (Newport) 14.59; 3, A Hunt (Cardiff) 15.25. Final positions: 1, Tobin 5pts; 2, *G Newhams (Bridgend)* 15; 3, A Hunt (Cardiff) 17. Veteran: 1, J Foster (Lliswerry Runners) 15min 45sec; 2, B Newhams (Bridgend) 15.49; 3, P Bennett (Bridgend) 15.52. Final positions: 1, *Bennett 25pts; 2, A Kerr (Bridgend) 37;* 3, D Powell (Griffithstown) 59. Over-50: A Carzana (Pegasus) 16min 54sec. Overall winner: Carzana 96pts. *Over-60: D* Rosser (Amman Valley) 20min 11sec. Overall winner: L Rosser 238pts. Women: 1, F Gill (Neath) 17min 12sec; 2, E Francis-Thomas (Cardiff) 17.28; 3, L Appleton (Bristol) 17.35. Final positions: 1, J Brace (Bridgend) 197pts; 2, B Gamblin (Westbury) 244; 3, C Gardner (Heartbeat) 254. Veteran: *J Brace (Bridgend) 19min* 10sec; 2, A Saxena (Newport) 20.24; 3, G Ryan (Lliswerry Runners) 20.25. Over-45: S Davis (Les Croupiers) 19min 46sec. Overall winner: C Feroday (Newport) 246pts

ROAD WALKING

WIMBLEDON: Civil Service Championships: Men 7 miles: 1, J Hall (MAFF) 57min 1sec; 2, S Allen (London Postal Region) 57.45; 3, *D Turner (Northern Post Office)* 58.13. Teams: 1, MAFF 16pts; 2, Inland Revenue 28; 3, Dept of Health and Social Security 44. Women 5km: 1, S Porter (Inland Revenue) 32min 45sec; 2, P Evans (Inland Revenue) 33.01; 3, S Mountford (Customs and Excise) 36.38. Team: Inland Revenue 7pts.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar

Premiership One

Bath 36 Wasps 27

Bath: Tries: Guscott 2, Peters. Cons: Catt 3. Pens: Catt 5. Wasps: Tries: Leota, Logan, Worsley. Pens: Rees 4. Att: 8,000

Gloucester 29 London Irish 22

Gloucester: Tries: Mapletoft, Penalty. Cons: Mapletoft 2. Pens: Mapletoft 5. London Irish: Try: Jones. Con: Woods. Pens: Woods 5. Att: 5,500

Leicester 49 Harlequins 15

Leicester: Tries: Lloyd 2, Back, Cockerill, Ezulike, Healey, Stransky. Cons: Stransky *4. Pens: Stransky 2. Harlequins: Pens:* Schuster 5. Att: 13,130

London Scottish 25 Sale 20

London Scottish: Try: Milligan. Con: McAusland. Pens: McAusland 6. Sale: Tries: R Smith 2, *Moore.* Con: Howarth. Pen: Howarth. Att: 1,200

Richmond 41 Newcastle 29

Richmond: Tries: R Hutton 2, Bateman, Brown, Clarke, Pichot. Cons: A Davies 4. Pen: A Davies. Newcastle: Tries: Naylor, Tuigamala, Walton, Weir. Cons: Andrew 2, *Wilkinson. Pen: Wilkinson.* Att: 9,530

Saracens 34 Northampton 7

Saracens: Tries: Coker, Johnson, Penaud, Thomson. Cons: Johnson 4. Pens: Johnson 2. Northampton: Try: Dawson. Con: Grayson. Att: 8,243

Premiership Two

Exeter 15 Bristol 22

Exeter: Pens: Easson 5. Bristol: Tries: Breeze, Channon, Evans. Cons: Hull 2. Pen: Hull

Fylde *6 Orrell* 20

Fylde: Pens: Peacock 2. Orrell: Tries: Liptrot, Lyon, M Oliver. Con: Verbickas. Pen: Verbickas

Leeds 18 London Welsh 20

Leeds: Tries: Cawthorne, Easterby. Con: Tupulotu. Pens: Tupulotu 2. London Welsh: Tries: Currier, L Jones, C Langley. Con: Pearce. Pen: Pearce. Att: 1,152

Moseley 32 Wakefield 33

Moseley: Tries: Patten, Penalty, Simpson, Smart. Cons: Smart 3. Pens: Smart 2. Wakefield: Tries: Birkby 2, Elisara. Cons: Ure 3. Pens: Ure 4. Att: 1,000.

Rugby 18 Blackheath 12

Rugby: Tries: Rees, Withers. Con: Hopkins. Pens: Hopkins 2. Blackheath: Pens: Aitken 4

Waterloo 22 Rotherham 7

Waterloo: Try: Davies. Con: L Griffiths. Pens: L Griffiths 5. Rotherham: Try: Dudley. Con: Trevelia. Att: 1,000

Worcester 22 Coventry 7

Worcester: Tries: Baxter, Denhardt, Fenley, Tomlinson. Con: Le Bas. Coventry: Try: Smallwood. Con: Gough. Att: 2,500.

Jewson National League

First division

Camberley	24	Wharfedale	11
Henley	5	Harrogate	20
Lydney	21	B'ham/Solihull	13
Morley	23	Liverpool St H	18
Newbury	28	Reading	14
Nottingham	13	Manchester	29
Otley	23	Rosslyn Park	20

Second division north

Aspatria	57	Winnington Park	7
New Brighton	45	*Lichfield*	7
Nuneaton	25	Kendal	*22*
Preston	50	Whitchurch	7
Sandal	21	Hinckley	6
Stourbridge	32	Sedgley Park	17
Walsall	0	Sheffield	35

Second division south

Barking	21	*Weston-S-Mare*	*8*
Bridgwater	14	Taberd	20
Clifton	8	Norwich	17
Esher	44	Redruth	3
Havant	11	Met Police	13
North Walsham	17	Bracknell	3
Plymouth	26	Cheltenham	13

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Currie 37 Boroughmuir 24

Currie: Tries: Craig, Hardie, Reed, Ward. Wan. Cons: Donaldson 3. Pens: Donaldson 2. Boroughmuir: Tries: McLean 2, Kiddie, A McKinley. Cons: Kiddie 2.

Glasgow Hawks 13 Heriots FP 31

Glasgow Hawks: Tries: Little, Wilson. Pen: Harris. Heriots FP: Tries: Keenan 2, Binnie. Lawson. Con: Ross. Pens: Ross 3. Att: 800.

Jed-Forest 31 West of Scotland 15

Jed-Forest: Tries: Dunnet, Hotson, Szkudro. Cons: C Richards 2. Pens: C Richards 4. West of Scotland: Pens: Curtis 5

Stirling County 15 Hawick 19

Stirling County: Tries: Lewis, McMillan. Con: Naylor. Pen: Naylor. Hawick: Tries: D Landels, M Landels. Colin Murray. Cons: Murdie 2

Watsonians 11 *Melrose* 50

Watsonians: Try: Hills. Pens: P Smith 2. Melrose: Tries: Laurie 2, Aitken, R Brown, Clark, Nichol, C Redpath, Thom. Cons: Morris 5. Att: 500.

Second division

Dundee HSFP *28 Kelso* 10

Dundee HSFP: Tries: Peggie, J Petrie, Rouse. Cons: J Newton 2. Pens: J Newton 3. Kelso: Try: Bennett. Con: Aitchison. Pen: Aitchison

Edinburgh A *16 Musselburgh* 29

Edinburgh Acads: Tries: Black, Hay-Smith. Pens: Baillie 2. Musselburgh: Tries: Bassit, N McCracken, Smith. Con: C Livingston. Pens: C Livingston 2.

Gala 32 *Aberdeen GSFP* 14

Gala: Tries: Parker, Penalty. Cons: C Patterson 2. Pens: C Patterson 4, Parker 2. Aberdeen GSFP: Try: Buchan. Pens: Audy 3

Kilmarnock 12 Kirkcaldy 33

Kilmarnock: Tries: Pratt, A Sinclair. Con: Gavin. Kirkcaldy: Tries: Carruthers, G Hannah, Morrison, Trewartha. Cons: Mason 2. Pens: R Mitchell 2. Dropped goal: R *Mitchell*

Selkirk 23 Biggar 11

Selkirk: Tries: *B Gentleman* 2, Hume, Hunter. Pen: Blair. Biggar: Try: Armstrong. Pens: Thompson 2.

Third division

Glasgow S 17 Stewarts Mel FP 15

Glasgow Southern: Tries: McIlwham, Sharkey. Cons: Healy 2. Pen: Healy. *Stewarts Mel FP:* Tries: Morley 2, McKenzie

Glenrothes 15 Grangemouth 34

Glenrothes: Tries: Cameron, A Greive. Con: Greene. Pen: Greene. Grangemouth: Tries: Glasson 3, *Hughes 2, Verity.* Cons: Crossan 2.

Gordonians 12 Ayr 12

Gordonians: Tries: Cibb 2. Con: Estochy. Ayr: Pens: Murdoch 4

Peebles 14 Berwick 12

Peebles: Try: Rutherford. Pens: Rutherford 3. *Berwick: Tries: Simmons, Young. Con:* Lynn

Preston Lodge 13 East Kilbride 18

Preston Lodge: Tries: Olds, Payne. Pen: Kinross. East Kilbride: Tries: Ferry, Stewart. *Con: Stevens. Pens: Stevens 2*

Welsh National League

Premier division

Aberavon 5 Newport 47

Aberavon: *Try: R Lewis. Newport: Tries:* King 2, Lloyd 2, Hicks, Llewellyn, Snow. Cons: Connor 6

Ebbw Vale 23 Bridgend 20

Ebbw Vale: Try: Llewellyn. Pens: Hayward 5. *Dropped goal: Hayward. Bridgend: Try:* Stephens. Pens: Cull 5

Neath 18 Caerphilly 21

Neath: Tries: Eggar 2, Horgan. Pen: Case. Caerphilly: Tries: Hooper, Marshall, Wintle. Pens: Davey 2

Pontypridd 22 Llanelli 15

Pontypridd: Tries: Shorney, Williams. Pens: Jenkins 4. Llanelli: Pens: S Jones 5.

First division

Bonymaen 17 Pontypool *0*

Bonymaen: Tries: S Davies, May, Poorland. Con: S Davies.

Cross Keys 29 Llandovery 17

Cross Keys: Tries: Bushell, Crimmins, Harris, P Watkins. Cons: Bebb 3. Pen: Bebb. Llandovery: Tries: E Evans, M Jones, Monaghan. Con: A Williams.

Maesteg 12 Treorchy 49

Maesteg: Tries: L Jones, A Lewis. Con: Warren. Treorchy: *Tries: Hammans 2, Martin* 2, Lewis, D Lloyd, Roberts. Cons: D Evans 4. Pens: D Evans 2.

Merthyr 22 Tredegar 18

Merthyr: Tries: Lowning, G Thomas. Pens: *Lloyd 3. Dropped goal: Lloyd. Tredegar:* Tries: Davies, Rees. Con: Chapman. Pens: Chapman 2

Newbridge 31 *Abertillery* 23

Newbridge: Tries: James, Turner, Williams. Cons: Williams 2. Pens: Williams 3. Dropped goal: Williams. Abertillery: Tries: Green, Miles, Wright. Con: Withers. Pens: Withers 2

S Wales Police 10 Rumney 27

South Wales Police: Tries: Hemburrow, G Jones. Rumney: Tries: Ford 2, L Abdul, Ryce. Cons: *Mason 2. Pen: Mason.*

Tondu 20 Dunvant 36

Tondu: Tries: Fofana, Harrells, Strong. Con: Howells. Pen: Howells. Dunvant: Tries: Lewis 2, Arnold, Manaaelava, Meredith, *Middleton. Cons: M Thomas 3*

UWIC 11 Blackwood 30

UWIC (Cardiff Inst): Try: Rowlands. Pens: R Jones 2. Blackwood: Tries: Ackerman, Johnstone, Lewis, Price, Vealer. Con: Lay. Pen: Lay.

Anglo-Welsh friendlies

Bedford 10 Cardiff 27

Bedford: Try: Howard. Con: Howard. Pen: Howard. Cardiff: Tries: Humphreys, Kacala, *Wintle.* Cons: *Jarvis 3. Pens: Jarvis 2.* Att: 1,743

Swansea 32 West Hartlepool 26

Swansea: Tries: Simon Davies 2, Moriarty, Penalty. Cons: L Davies 3. Pens: *L Davies* 2. *West Hartlepool.* Tries: Bishop, Brewer. Cons: Vile 2. Pens: Vile 4

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Narbonne 42 Nimes 9; Biarritz 39 Aurillac 9; Stade Français 40 Castres 13; Bourgoin 28 Toulon 9. Pool two: Montferrand 33 Beziers 18; Begles-Bordeaux 32 Agen 14; Auch 9 Dax 26; Perpignan 47 Nice 6. Pool three: Brive 32 Colomiers 7; Toulouse 57 Grenoble 3; La Rochelle 20 Perigueux 9; Pau 49 Racing Club de France 29.

CLUB CRICKET

AIREDALE AND WHARFEDALE LEAGUE: Skipton 129 Adel 130-4; Guiseley 164-4 Beckwithshaw 170-8; *Steeton* 243-8 *Horsforth* 213-8; Knaresborough 173-8 Hall Park 137-7; North Leeds 133 Rawdon 108; Bilton 129 Calverley 130-5.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Aston Unity 143-9 Stratford 147-3; Moseley 135-8 Kidderminster 125-9; Walsall 158-5 Smethwick 99-9; West Bromwich Dartmouth 134 Old Hill 63; Wolverhampton 274-3 dec Stourbridge *128*

VIMTO BOLTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Adlington 97-9 British Aerospace 97-7; Astley and Tyldesley Coils 155-8 Clifton 156-4; Little Hulton 94 Atherton 95-6; Blackrod 142 Daisy Hill 96; Standish 119-8 Edgworth 122-2; Walshaw *145-9* Golborne *110;* Spring View 160 Darcy Lever 135

FORT JAMES BOLTON LEAGUE: Westhoughton 186-9 dec Astley Bridge *191; Bradshaw* 128 Egerton 129-3; Farnworth S C 174-5 dec Farnworth 138-8; Heaton 253-6 dec Greenmount 68; Horwich 102 Kearsley 105-4; Eagley 251-3 dec Little Lever 216; Walkden 89 Tonge 32-4

BRADFORD CENTRAL LEAGUE: Sandy Lane 129 Bolton Villas 135-1; Buttershaw 143-8 Oxenhope 145-9; Crossflatts 284-7 Nthowlam/Fields 133; Laisterdyke 149-9 *Harden 152-6; Jer Lane 190-4 Haworth* Road 158-7; Thornton 147 Thackley 149-7.

BRADFORD LEAGUE: Farsley 145 Bradford and Bingley 147-3; East Bierley *170-9 Hanging* Heaton 174-6; Spen Victoria 175-7 Lightcliffe 135; Pudsey Congs 165-5 Baildon 124-7; Saltaire 185-9 Bowling Old Lane 162-9; *Undercliffe* 187-8 Yorkshire Bank 121-8; Pudsey St Lawrence 109 Windhill 76

JAROSE CENTRAL YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Birstall 212-4 Batley 160-8; Wrenthorpe 119-8 Woodlands 91; Slazengers 187-4 Gomersal *190-6; Staincliffe* 115 *Townville* 116-5; Liversedge 220-8 Altofts 200-9

MURRAY SMITH AND CO CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Birkenhead Park 134 Alderley Edge 135-9; Marple 201-8 dec Nantwich 202-4; Macclesfield 136 Neston 140-2; Oxton 161 Hyde 163-9; Poynton 171-8 dec Heaton Mersey 175-5; Sale 114 Grappenhall 118-2; Stalybridge 173 Didsbury 175-5; Chester Boughton Hall 212-7 dec Toft 214-7; Cheadle Hulme 233-5 dec Upton 158; Brooklands 160-7 dec Urmston 161-2; Warrington 144 Bowdon 141; Alsager *209-6 dec Widnes* 134-9

VAUX DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE: Boldon 123 South Shields 124-4; Seaham Harbour 118 Burnmoor 119-4; Philadelphia 172-9 Chester Le Street 175-9; Durham City 175-6 Horden 94-7; Durham CA 155-6 *Gateshead Fell 156-7;* Felling 96 Eppleton 97-4; Whitburn 162-7 Sunderland 117-8

SHEPHERD NEAME ESSEX LEAGUE: Billericay 176 Wanstead 182-3; Loughton 180-4 Wickford 184-6.

HERTFORDSHIRE LEAGUE: Langleybury 90-4 Watford Town 83-9; Luton Town 155-4 Welwyn Garden City 156-5; Barnet 130 Hemel Hempstead 131-9.

DRAKES HUDDERSFIELD LEAGUE: Kirkburton 116-9 Lascelles Hall 121-3; Meltham 243-4 Skelmanthorpe 127-7; Scholes 193 Linthwaite 133-8; *Broad Oak* 239-4 Marsden 92-7; Hall Bower 192-6 Kirkheaton 201-7; Holmfirth 78 Elland 79-4

LEES BREWERY LANCASHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Denton St Law 141-8 Roe Green 144-2; Dukinfield 123 Woodhouses 125-3; Denton 91 Glossop 95-2; *Irlam 158-9 Cheetham Hill 100;* Longsight 112 Sale Moor 114-5; Woodbank 158 Prestwich 158-9

LEEDS AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: East Leeds 121 Caribbean 68; Esholt 235-8 Woodhouse 159-7; Khalsa 129 Carlton 130-8; Leeds Police 103 Great Preston 109-4; Roundhay 156-8 Kirkstall Ed 157-7

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Deane and Derby 161-8 Swinton Moorside 162-5; Stockport Geor*gians 198-6 Newton Heath 133-6; Winton* 124 Stretford 125-4; Monton 183-7 Wythenshawe 180-9; Flixton 174-8 Ashton-On-Mersey 114-2; Whalley Range 171-8 Brooksbottom 152-8; South West Manchester 157 Earlestown 143.

BROMBOROUGH PAINTS MERSEYSIDE LEAGUE: Ainsdale 89 Cheshire Lines 63; Buckley 72 Sutton (St H) 73-5; Prestatyn 143 Caldy 101; Irby 122 Preston/Odyssey 84-7; St Asaph 145 Rainhill 146-1; Port Sunlight 80 Runcorn 81-2; Aigburth 164-7 dec Wavertree 165-8

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Richmond 178-5 dec Wembley 146-4; Southgate 188-6 dec South Hampstead 159-9

VAUX NORTHERN LEAGUE: Leyland *Dal 115 Blackpool 118-1; Chorley 160* Kendal 164-2; Preston 124 Leyland 127-4; Morecambe 137 Fleetwood 139-2; *Netherfield 196-8 Darwen 10?*

WILLIAM YOUNGER NORTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Dalton 94 Carlisle 97-3; Haverigg 184-7 Furness 185-4; *Penrith 254-3 Lindal 133-4;* Ulverston 60 Cleator 61-0; Millom 256-4 Vickers S C 101; Askam 106 Whitehaven 109-5; Vickerstown 95 Workington 96-2

J WHITFIELD AND SON NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Cageloc 157 Weston 89; *Burton 142 Wood Lane 143-1;* Rode Park 147-7 Hem Heath 148-8; Hanford 129 Sandyford 118-8; Meakins 150-6 dec City *Works 57; Shymenton 205-6 dec Scot* Hay 109; Boltons 107 Silverdale 75

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Ashcombe Park 96 Little Stoke 98-3; Bignall End 138-9 dec Betley *101-7; Caverswall* 173 Moddershall 100-6; Crewe 40 Elworth 43-3; Audley 108 Knypersley 106-9; Longton 194-6 Newcastle and H 198-2; Leek 199-3 dec Stone 196-9

THE WATKIN JONES NORTH WALES LEAGUE: Bangor 146-3 Gresford 133; Bersham 156-5 Pontblyddyn 157-1; Brymbo 250-4 Mochdre 74; Hawarden Park 73 Halkyn 74-7; Bethesda 176-7 Llandudno 155; Mold 100 Llay 48

DARLINGTON BUILDING SOCIETY NORTH YORKSHIRE/SOUTH DURHAM LEAGUE: Marske 211-3 Northallerton 177-6.

MIDLAND BANK NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE LEAGUE: Underwood 64 Gotham 65-1.

VAUX RIBBLESDALE SENIOR LEAGUE: Barnoldswick 60-1 Cherry Tree 59; *Settle 108 Clitheroe 108-4; Great* Harwood 120 Earby 121-7; Blackburn Northern 119-7 Edenfield 120-0; *Baxenden* 190-3 Oswaldtwistle 194-8; Whalley 160 Padiham 161-2; Read 146-6 Ribblesdale 149-5

PARKER INTERNATIONAL LTD SADDLEWORTH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Middlehurst 153 Droylsden 155-5; East Lancashire 191-5 Saddleworth 126; Hollinwood 104-5 *Fallowfield* 103; Friarmere 111-4 Austerlands 107; Heyside 168 B Fieldhouse 169-9; Moorside 70 Delph and Dobcross 72-1; Greenfield 227-8 Shaw 155; Uppermill 158 Stayley 141

FURROWS SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE: Oswestry 200 Bridgnorth 143-9; *Ludlow* 199 Wroxeter 202-7; Shrewsbury 184-4 Newport 113; Wem 57 Wellington 58-0; Whitchurch 138-8 St Georges 142-3

STAFFORDSHIRE LEAGUE: Brewood 59 Himley 62-3

EVE SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP: Farnham 178-9 dec Bank Of England 173; Honor Oak 139 Addiscombe 73

FULLERS BREWERY SURREY COUNTY LEAGUE: Marlborough 169 Farncombe 152; Haslemere 114 Blackheath 115-3; Roehampton 74 Thames Ditton 75-7

POSTURITE SUSSEX LEAGUE: Crowborough 129 Eastbourne 135-2; Chichester *141-6 dec Worthing 105-9;* Lewes Priory 105 Haywards Heath 90; Sidley 92 Preston Nomads 94-2; Bexhill 176-7 dec *v East Grinstead*

MORRANT THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Wokingham 203-5 Kidmore End 178-9.

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Doncaster 106 York 107-3; *Harrogate* 187-7 Scarborough 105-9; Sheff Utd 212-5 Castleford 161-9; Yorks Academy 181-9 Appleby Frodingham 181-2

☐ *Other matches postponed/ abandoned*

هكذا من الأصل

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RACING: LODER GIVES NEW NEIGHBOURS A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE IN PRIX DU MOULIN

Desert Prince stamps his authority

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH AT LONGCHAMP



ED BYRNE

Desert Prince, ridden by Peslier, draws clear for an emphatic success in the group one Prix du Moulin over a mile at Longchamp yesterday

UNUSUALLY for a group one race, not least one sponsored by the Emirates airline, the Maktoum family was not represented in the Prix du Moulin here yesterday. At the same time, the emphatic success of Desert Prince offered further vindication for perhaps the most precious of their recent investments.

For David Loder, who trains the colt for Edward St George, was giving the local opposition a taste of what they can expect next year when he will be supervising the Godolphin two-year-olds at Evry, on the other side of Paris. From Newmarket, Loder's 40 per cent strike-rate this season has all but humiliated his British rivals. His new neighbours may now be urging that the free movement of labour within Europe should be subject to a clause restricting the free movement of invincibility.

The tremendous authority of Desert Prince's success, however, in part reflected the tame performance of Second Empire. The Irish raider could not match the winner's acceleration after both had been poised behind the tiring front-runners turning for home.

One of them, Mempari, carried the same Michael Tabor colours but was absolved of any pacemaking responsibilities by the frantic gallop set by Yutaka Take on Seeking The Pearl. The Japanese filly was unproven on soft ground, but would have done well to last home at that rate even on a conveyor belt. At least her duel with Mempari spared the race, in terms of its contribution to the milers' championship, the usual infirmity of evidence gleaned from those pointlessly slow races so common in France.

Instead, Desert Prince, returned at just over 4-1 on the pari mutuel, confirmed that learning to settle has helped him mature into a miler of the highest class. He was serenely switched off in third by Olivier Peslier, tracked by John Reid on Second Empire, only to burst clear in the straight. Gold Away's pursuit proved the least desperate, though still held by three lengths at the line, with Second Empire labouring another two lengths away in third.

Loder, who had also been among the winners at Deauville, said: "My French forays are running smoothly at the moment. We thought he had improved nearly 10lb since Ascot, both physically and in his work. You never know until you get to the track, of course, but the plan all along was to give him a rest before coming here, and then to go for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes back at Ascot, followed by the Breeders' Cup Mile. Then he is due to retire to the Irish National Stud."

The Green Desert colt's reputation there is already assured, as he won the Irish 2,000 Guineas in the spring. On that occasion he had again beaten Second Empire into third, though Christy Roche's protestations, that he could not have finished any closer with a more vigorous ride, were treated with derision at the time.

Second Empire had laid the foundations of his reputation here last autumn, but had first lost his imperial airs that day at the Curragh, and then when well beaten in the Derby. Aidan O'Brien had nursed him back to win a group three race impressively at the Curragh last month, and he looked rippling with vigour in the paddock, but there was to be no second conquest. "He was going well but just flattened out," Reid said.

Tabor, too, was baffled, and disinclined to blame the sticky ground, which had not impeded Second Empire on his last visit. O'Brien said: "He does go on this ground but may need a longer distance."

While the Ballydoyle team pondered whether their colt will ever achieve fulfilment, Edward St George was giving an insight into Loder's record. "We're bad losers," he said. "But we're good winners."

☐ The James Fanshawe-trained Invermark, ridden by Peslier, finished fourth to Tiraaz, trained by Alain de Royer Dupré, in the group three Prix Gladiateur.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Bitter Sweet
(3.00 Bath)

The well-drawn Bitter Sweet should relish the stamina test posed by this extended mile. The David Elsworth-trained filly is capable of obliging at decent odds on her nursery debut.

NB: Stolen Tear
(3.15 Hamilton Park)

Decision close on outcome of Coral takeover

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is expected to pronounce on Ladbrokes' £363 million takeover of Coral in a matter of days — early next week is the favourite — and yesterday Peter Jones, the Tote chairman, articulated why the decison is vital to the Tote and racing.

As Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, considers the conclusions of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report into the deal, Jones confirmed publicly for the first time that Ladbrokes has offered to sell an extra 167 shops to the Tote, in addition to the 133 it sold provisionally in January, and suggested more could be available.

"We think it might be possible to squeeze a few more, up to 50, before Ladbrokes finds selling all of Coral more attractive," Jones said. "We would be able to buy them within our own borrowing limits."

If Mandelson agreed to such a compromise — which would leave Ladbrokes with just over 500 of the 833 Coral outlets it bought unconditionally in the new year — the Tote's high street presence would increase from the 210 betting shops it owned at the end of 1997 to around 560, making it a genuine third force in off-course bookmaking.

However, if Mandelson decides to block the deal — which Ladbrokes fears is the recommendation of the MMC — Ladbrokes would be forced to sell the entire Coral estate. Although the Tote would make a bid, Jones believes the chance of success would be about 10-1 against because "there is a strong possibility of being outbid by other people with deeper pockets". In which case, the Tote would be back to owning just 210 of the nation's 8,000 betting shops.

"If we were to lose the lot it would severely dent our long-term hopes of getting a fighting unit in the betting shop side and we would revert to being a bit player," he said. The 133 shops provisionally acquired from Ladbrokes in January boosted Tote profits by £500,000, after financing costs, in the final three months of the last financial year. If it ended up with a total of 560 outlets, profits from the betting shop division could swell from £2 million a year to around £5 million "even with a fairly low level of growth".

The Tote contributed a record £10 million from its £18 million profits last year and the sport's depleted coffers would feel the pinch if the Government blocks the takeover.

The question Mandelson has to address concerns the acceptable share of the off-course market which Ladbrokes should be allowed to retain. If he agrees to the compromise deal involving the Tote, Ladbrokes would have 33.1 per cent of the market. However, if he imposed a lower ceiling, forcing Ladbrokes to dispose of even more shops, it would probably make financial sense for the company to sell the entire Coral estate.

BATH

THUNDERER

2.00 Lady Beware
2.30 In The Stocks
3.00 Kingston Venture
3.30 Bullet
4.00 Drift
4.30 Loch Laird
5.00 WHITE EMIR (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 GENETIC.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J - if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 BANES MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,814: 5f 11yd) (15 runners)

101	(10)	0	LA SOEUR D'ALBERT 12 (C & A Deuters) J Berry 8-7	K Darley	49
102	(9)	0060	MERANIE GIRL 46 (E Darling) J Arnold 8-7	C Lowther	38
103	(5)	04505	LADY BEWARE 29 (BF) (W Ponsonby) M Channon 8-6	T Quinn	[60]
104	(15)	0	SKIP CHURCH 21 (Lord Huntingdon) Lord Huntingdon 8-6	M Roberts	32
105	(7)	00	TOP TARN 41 (Sir Stanley & Lady Grinstead) C Wall 8-5	G Hind	53
106	(8)	0005	BROCKTON SAGA 10 (Mrs D La Trobe) B Meehan 8-4	C Rutter	40
107	(1)	60	SPACE BABE 33 (Lady Davis) R Hannon 8-4	Dane O'Neill	44
108	(4)	62464	ZOLA POWER 32 (Miss N Benjamin) G L Moore 8-4	S Whitworth	59
109	(3)	24	HANIBEL LADY 151 (BF) (Hanibel Racing Partnership) P Evans 8-2	J F Egan	35
110	(6)	000660	SISTER PATRICE 27 (In For The Crack) Mrs P Dutfield 8-2	S Drowne	66
111	(2)	00	BROUGHTONS SONG 6 (Lyons & Broughton II) W Musson 8-1	P Robinson	38
112	(12)	F	GROESFAEN LADY 25 (J Harris & Mrs S Harris) B Palling 8-1	T Sprake	–
113	(14)		L'AGNEAU NOIR (S Lamb) W Muir 8-1	Martin Dwyer	–
114	(11)	500030	TRUE LOVE WAYS 11 (Mascalls Stud) W G M Turner 8-1	J Quinn	70
115	(13)	00	LITTLE GREENBIRD 96 (Mrs L Green) W G M Turner 8-0	A Nicholls (5)	26

BETTING: 5-1 Lady Beware, 6-1 La Soeur D'Albert, Zola Power, 7-1 Hanibel Lady, 8-1 Space Babe, 10-1 others.

1997: AJIB DANCER 8-5 T Quinn (11-4 fav) M Channon 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Lady Beware 7¾l last of 5 to Lively Jacq in handicap at Yarmouth (6f 3yd, good to firm). Skip Church 12l 9th of 13 to Petrovna in maiden auction stakes at Windsor (5f 10yd, firm). Space Babe 6¼l 7th of 9 to Gino's Spirits in maiden auction stakes at Brighton (6f 209yd, good to firm). Zola Power 4¾l 4th of 9 to Bevelena in handicap at Haydock (5f, good). Hanibel Lady 9¼l 4th of 8 to Aa-Youknownothing in maiden auction stakes at Musselburgh (5f, good to soft).

ZOLA POWER can come out on top in a weak contest

2.30 AUTUMN SELLING HANDICAP (£2,444: 1m 5yd) (18 runners)

201	(10)	600-	MADAME MAXI 314 (P Hedger) P Hedger 4-9-10	T Quinn	25
202	(1)	030041	MY LEGAL EAGLE 38 (G) (J Hills) J Hills 4-9-9	P Clarke (7)	48
203	(6)	600000	IN THE STOCKS 27 (E Gadsden & Mrs M Fairbairn) L Cottrell 4-9-7	K Fallon	54
203	(6)	600000	IN THE STOCKS 27 (E Gadsden & Mrs M Fairbairn) L Cottrell 4-9-7	K Fallon	54
204	(3)	05006	CLASSIC CONKERS 11 (Classic Bloodstock Plc) Pat Mitchell 4-9-7	M Fenton	24
205	(7)	205600	AFICIONADO 9 (D,G) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 4-9-6	R Cochrane	[72]
206	(18)	540440	SUMBAWA 13 (V) (J Ruggles & Mrs A Ruggles) D Haydn Jones 3-9-5	A Mackay	47
207	(9)	00000	BOLD SARAH 31 (J Smyth) R Hollinshead 4-9-3	S Sanders	37
208	(4)	506	MISS PARADISO 17 (Ridwhite Racing) B Palling 3-9-3	T Sprake	14
209	(13)	030300	SHARP MONKEY 28 (V,D) (J Teasdale) Mrs N Macauley 3-9-2	P McCabe	66
210	(17)	000006	JUNCTION CITY 28 (B) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-9-2	Martin Dwyer	65
211	(15)	240040	MARIANA 3 (D Bass) R Whitaker 3-9-1	A Nicholls (5)	45
212	(16)	332140	AMINGTON GIRL 28 (B,D,G) (J Higgins) P Evans 3-9-0	J F Egan	49
213	(12)	-00060	SHARP FELLOW 27 (V) (Park House Partnership) I Balding 3-9-0	S Whitworth	50
214	(5)	220044	SPRING BEACON 27 (Newmarket Connections Ltd) C Allen 3-8-13	N Carlisle	54
215	(14)	0-260	CRYSTAL CRAZE 20 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 3-8-13	D Sweeney	39
216	(11)	00-050	BEAUCATCHER 27 (Mrs R Lowe) D Elsworth 4-8-13	N Pollard (5)	44
217	(8)	0-0000	EIFFEL TIGER 19 (Mrs J Marion) Bob Jones 3-8-13	D Biggs	30
218	(2)	054-00	CASA ROSA 12 (G McCourt) G McCourt 3-8-12	N Varley	26

BETTING: 5-1 My Legal Eagle, 6-1 In The Stocks, 7-1 Mariana, 8-1 Aficionado, Spring Beacon, 10-1 others.

1997: MURRON WALLACE 3-8-11 A Mackay (4-1 fav) D Haydn Jones 18 ran

FORM FOCUS My Legal Eagle beat Zilzak 1l in 16-runner apprentice maiden handicap at Thirsk (7f, good). In The Stocks 4¾l 7th of 18 to Polonaise Prince in maiden handicap at Bath (1m 5yd, good to firm) with Sharp Fellow (2lb worse off) 6¼l 9th and Beaucatcher (levels) 23l 17th. Aficionado 11l 10th of 21 to Galapino in claiming handicap at Goodwood (1m 1f 192yd, good to firm). Miss Paradiso 18l 6th of 10 to Forest Fire in claiming stakes at Sandown (1m 1f, good to firm). Junction City 6¼l 6th of 17 to Falls O'Moness in selling handicap at Thirsk (1m, good to firm). Spring Beacon 2l 4th of 12 to Patsy Culsyth in selling handicap at Ayr (7f, soft).

The booking of Kieren Fallon for IN THE STOCKS can prove decisive

3.00 BATHFORD NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £6,018: 1m) (16 runners)

301	(11)	332145	DIABLO DANCER 23 (F,S) (Renishaw Quartet) B Millman 9-7	N Callan (5)	68
302	(13)	41	JOYEUX PLAYER 31 (S) (S Khaled) J Dunlop 9-3	K Fallon	64
303	(15)	212006	BATHWICK 16 (G) (W Clifford) B Smart 9-1	J Reid	[74]
304	(12)	005035	SEPTEMBER HARVEST 10 (J Dunningham) & Meehan 8-11	M Tebbutt	59
305	(4)	300303	AUTOCRAT 10 (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 8-9	S Sanders	62
306	(8)	416	KINGSTON VENTURE 11 (BF,F) (Miss C Overton) W G M Turner 8-9	D McGaffin (7)	45
307	(14)	0413	GINO'S SPIRITS 25 (F) (R Khan) C Brittain 8-8	P Robinson	50
308	(5)	24021	LADY MUCK 40 (F) (Mrs P McCarthy) D French Davis 8-7	S Whitworth	69
309	(6)	514356	BY THE GLASS 30 (G) (C Colquhoun) P Walwyn 8-6	K Darley	66
310	(7)	535	MR SOLITAIRE 9 (Mrs C Hanbury) P Cole 8-6	T Quinn	84
311	(1)	55543	BITTER SWEET 12 (J McGarry) D Elsworth 8-5	N Pollard (5)	62
312	(16)	014251	COSMO JACK 16 (C,F,G) (Rammar Plc) M Pipe 8-5	M Roberts	82
313	(10)	440001	BANNINGHAM BREEZE 10 (F) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-0	Martin Dwyer	71
314	(2)	026212	ACE OF TRUMPS 16 (BF,F) (A Goodman) W Haggas 7-12	J Quinn	63
315	(9)	414541	OVER THE COUNTER 7 (D,F) (Over The Counter Plus) M Channon 7-12	A Mackay	63
316	(3)	006	ALRIGHT POPS 107 (Mrs C Dickin) R Dickin 7-10	J Lowe	51

BETTING: 5-1 Joyeux Player, 8-1 Bathwick, Gino's Spirits, September Harvest, 10-1 Lady Muck, Cosmo Jack, 12-1 Diablo Dancer, Autocrat, Banningham Breeze, Kingston Venture, 14-1 others.

1997: KIM'S BRAVE 8-13 M Tebbutt (16-1) B Meehan 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Diablo Dancer 6¼l 5th of 13 to Hoh Steamer in handicap at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to firm) with Bathwick (2lb better off) 18l 12th. Joyeux Player beat Deploy Venture neck in 6-runner maiden stakes at Haydock (7f 30yd, good to soft). Autocrat 1¾l 3rd of 12 to Pilot's Harbour in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with September Harvest (1lb better off) 1½l 5th. Gino's Spirits 2¾l 3rd of 9 to Courtesan in novice stakes at Beverley (7f 100yd, good to firm). Lady Muck beat Pluralist neck in 11-runner maiden auction at Epsom (7f, good to firm). By The Glass 9¼l 6th of 7 to Oddsanends in handicap at Ascot (7f, good to firm). Bitter Sweet 2¾l 3rd of 10 to Canadian Approval in maiden auction at Lingfield (7f 140yd, firm). Cosmo Jack beat Ace Of Trumps (3lb better off) 1½l in 11-runner selling handicap at Sandown (7f 16yd, good to firm). Banningham Breeze beat Compton Aida 1¼l in 7-runner selling stakes at Goodwood (6f, good to firm). Over The Counter beat Miss Cody 3½l in 8-runner claiming stakes at Newcastle (1m, good to firm).

JOYEUX PLAYER showed a good attitude when winning at Haydock and can follow up

3.30 AVON MAIDEN STAKES (£3,550: 1m 3f 144yd) (12 runners)

401	(3)		BILLY MOONSHINE 185J (G Haupt) G L Moore 6-9-7	R Brisland (7)	–
402	(12)	64	ASTON VILLA 26 (J Duffy) D Elsworth 4-9-2	N Pollard (5)	78
403	(8)	3	BULLET 16 (J Boyce) W Haggas 3-8-12	R Cochrane	67
404	(7)	2440	DUEL ISLAND 16 (C Hitchings) J Spearing 3-8-12	S Drowne	57
405	(2)		MASTER REX (Miss L Challis) E Wheeler 3-8-12	A Daly (3)	–
406	(1)	0-3	NUVELLINO 25 (R Withers) B Millman 3-8-12	T Sprake	25
407	(10)	03000	PACIFYC 39 (T Benson) W Muir 3-8-12	J Reid	61
408	(5)	00	CROW'S NEST 17 (Lord Halifax) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-7	M Roberts	39
409	(4)	22	KEY ACADEMY 26 (BF) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 3-8-7	T Quinn	[84]
410	(9)		MUNEERA (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 3-8-7	R Hills	–
411	(6)	4	SILVER CASTOR 7 (J Hanshaw) P Harris 3-8-7	C Lowther	35
412	(11)	04	WINTER PAGEANT 61 (Aston House Stud) L Cumani 3-8-7	R Ffrench	61

BETTING: 9-4 Key Academy, 11-4 Bullet, 5-1 Winter Pageant, 6-1 Silver Castor, 8-1 Crow's Nest, 10-1 others.

1997: TIKOPIA 3-8-12 Martin Dwyer (6-1) I Balding 18 ran

FORM FOCUS Bullet 5l 3rd of 8 to Boreas in maiden stakes at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm). Nuvellino 9¼l 3rd of 7 to Transylvania in maiden stakes at Chepstow (7f 16yd, good to firm). Key Academy 1½l 2nd of 9 to Cuff in maiden stakes at Sandown (1m 2f 7yd, good to firm) with Aston Villa (levels) 3¾l 4th. Silver Castor 7½l 4th of 9 to Profiler in maiden stakes at Ripon (1m 4f, good). Winter Pageant 8¼l 4th of 7 to Murghem in 3yo maiden stakes at Kempton (1m 4f, good to firm).

KEY ACADEMY will be hard to beat if staying this longer trip

4.00 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,931: 1m 5f 22yd) (15 runners)

501	(13)	03-032	DRIFT 9 (G Byrne) D Cantillon 4-9-13	N Pollard (5)	72
502	(6)	432025	PADAUK 36 (D Butler, B Potts & M Haynes) M Haynes 4-9-12	M Connolly (7)	72
503	(1)	452536	SAINTLY THOUGHTS 34 (K Dasmal) G Lewis 3-9-10	Paul Eddery	66
504	(11)	235303	PEPPERS 20 (M Nelmes-Crocker) K Burke 5-9-10	N Callan (5)	67
505	(5)	550436	FIELDS OF OMAGH 11 (BF) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-9-9	S Whitworth	59
506	(8)	0-8058	POLISH PILOT 7 (Mrs B Martin) W Muir 3-9-9	J Reid	53
507	(10)	06024	GENETIC 33 (R & M Barrow) P Walwyn 3-9-5	R Cochrane	[E]
508	(15)	0003	FORBES PARK 20 (B Tantoco) C Horgan 3-9-4	S Drowne	51
509	(7)	030522	SNOW PARTRIDGE 11 (BF) (M Arbib) P Cole 4-9-4	T Quinn	69
510	(2)	360232	WILD COLONIAL BOY 20 (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 3-9-4	Dane O'Neill	68
511	(9)	-00205	MANTELLO 52 (B) (Super Sprinters) D Chappell 3-9-2	A McGlone	46
512	(12)	600	APRIL TREASURE 32 (W Donohue) J Spearing 3-9-1	A Mackay	63
513	(14)	-00605	HIGH ON LIFE 22 (B) (Caisteal Bloodstock Ltd) J Akehurst 4-9-1	A Clark	52
514	(4)	-54220	CHOCOLATE BOX 24 (BF) (J Greetham) W Haggas 3-9-1	S Sanders	61
515	(3)	243230	SAN GLAMORE MELODY 14 (949 Racing) R Ingram 4-8-13	R Havlin (3)	69

BETTING: 5-1 Wild Colonial Boy, 6-1 Snow Partridge, 8-1 Drift, Peppers, Genetic, 10-1 Padauk, 12-1 others.

1997: JASEUR 4-10-0 L Dettori (10-1) J Gosden 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Drift neck 2nd of 9 to Miss Pin Up in handicap at Nottingham (1m 6f 15yd, good to firm). Saintly Thoughts 13l 6th of 7 to Cut Diamond in handicap at Bath (2m 1f 34yd, good). Peppers 4l 3rd of 12 to Roman Reel in apprentice handicap at Brighton (1m 1f 209yd, firm). Genetic 6¾l 4th of 5 to Mark Of Prophet in stakes at Leicester (1m 3f 183yd, good to firm). Snow Partridge ½l 2nd of 16 to Short Romance in handicap at Folkestone (1m 4f, firm). Wild Colonial Boy 3l 2nd of 9 to Star Of The Course in handicap at Brighton (1m 3f 196yd, firm) with Forbes Park (3lb better off) 10l 3rd.

DRIFT has improved with each run this season and can gain a deserved success

4.30 SHERSTON MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,631: 5f 161yd) (16 runners)

601	(6)	344-00	ASYAAD 115 (A Griffin) Mrs L Stubbs 9-0	R Cochrane	68
602	(5)		CYMMERIAD O GYMRU (Davies & Bridgeman) B Palling 9-0	T Sprake	–
603	(4)	225	DOBERMAN 18 (J Manley) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	78
604	(14)	0	GALLANT FELLOW 46 (P Cook) C Egerton 9-0	Dane O'Neill	56
605	(13)	223-32	LOCH LAIRD 11 (BF) (Miss E L Collier) M Madgwick 9-0	J Reid	78
606	(12)	33	NICKLES 93 (R Richards) L Cottrell 9-0	A Clark	71
607	(16)	0	PURSUIT OF GOLD 51 (Classic Gold) A Kelleway 9-0	A Mackay	21
608	(10)	0-5	RED SHIFT 13 (Mrs R Lowe) D Elsworth 9-0	A Daly (3)	67
609	(9)	400003	SECOND SUN 11 (Mrs J Stamp) J Bridger 9-0	G Bardwell	47
610	(11)	2302	TUSCAN DREAM 23 (C & A Deuters) J Berry 9-0	K Darley	83
611	(3)	0-	YAJTAHED 464 (N Clark) G L Moore 9-0	Paul Eddery	–
612	(1)	333003	DODO 18 (B) (D Elsworth) D Elsworth 8-9	N Pollard (5)	[88]
613	(15)	00-	DOODLE 355 (B Haggas) W Haggas 8-9	Jo Hunnam (5)	33
614	(7)	-50423	EMMAJOUN 26 (P Nahavi) W G M Turner 8-9	D McGaffin (7)	74
615	(2)	630-	LADY ALMITRA 338 (C Hill) R Hodges 8-9	S Drowne	73
616	(8)	0	WALTZING MATILDA 9 (Mrs J Costelloe) C Brittain 8-9	P Robinson	–

BETTING: 4-1 Tuscan Dream, 5-1 Nickles, Loch Laird, 6-1 Red Shift, Dodo, 8-1 Emmajoun, 10-1 others.

1997: FIRST PRINCIPLE 9-0 S Sanders (3-1) C Wall 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Loch Laird 3l 2nd of 6 to Glowing in maiden auction at Folkestone (6f, firm) with Second Sun (levels) 7l 3rd. Nickles 1½l 3rd of 10 to Jasmine in maiden at Doncaster (5f, good). Red Shift 4l 5th of 8 to Elljanah in maiden at Lingfield (6f, good to firm). Tuscan Dream short head 2nd of 9 to Bollin Ann in maiden at Ripon (5f, good to firm). Yajtahed 13l 10th of 12 to Cape Verdi in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). Dodo 6l 3rd of 11 to Splendid Isolation in maiden at Salisbury (6f 212yd, good to firm) with Doberman (levels) 12l 5th. Emmajoun 1¾l 3rd of 13 to The Woodcock in maiden auction at Nottingham (6f 15yd, good).

Dodo is proving hard to win with, and LOCH LAIRD is a safer proposition

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH RACE HANDICAP
(£3,729: 5f 161yd) (19 runners)

1	(12)	036200	HARD TO FIGURE 9 (CD,F,G,S) (J Mussell) R Hodges 12-9-12	S Drowne	89
2	(1)	00-060	SPENDER 31 (CD,F,G) (Entrepreneurs) P Harris 9-9-8	C Lowther	84
3	(6)	220006	WHITE EMIR 7 (F,G,S) (Three Bears Racing) B Millman 5-9-8	M Roberts	88
4	(17)	221253	MAJALIS 10 (BF,S) (Bradmill Ltd) R Guest 3-9-8	N Pollard (5)	86
5	(2)	100000	BLUNDELL LANE 9 (V,D,F,G) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 3-9-8	S Clancy (7)	86
6	(10)	0100	NIGHT SPIRIT 9 (D,F) (E Grinstead Honda Ltd) C Brittain 3-9-7	P Robinson	89
7	(3)	301043	SEA-DEER 16 (D,F,G,S) (M Fordyce) C Dwyer 9-9-6	A Clark	89
8	(14)	301621	CAUDA EQUINA 4 (CD,F,G,S) (M Frey) M Channon 4-9-5 (7ex)	T Quinn	88
9	(11)	501204	FAIRY PRINCE 9 (D,F,G) (A Murphy) Mrs A King 5-9-4	J Quinn	83
10	(18)	004000	COMPRADORE 9 (F) (Mrs J Watkins) M Blanshard 3-9-4	Dane O'Neill	73
11	(7)	003065	SAMWAR 12 (V,D,G) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 6-9-1	P McCabe	[97]
12	(13)	660050	SIR JOEY 18 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 9-8-13	J F Egan	85
13	(15)	500506	LONGWICK LAD 19 (B,CD,F) (Mrs M Wickham) W Muir 5-8-13	J Reid	87
14	(4)	36-501	ANTONIA'S DOUBLE 42 (G) (C & A Deuters) J Berry 3-8-11	K Darley	70
15	(16)	634050	BEYOND CALCULATION 33 (D,F) (E Hayward) J Bradley 4-8-11	R Ffrench	86
16	(9)	-60500	SILVERSMITH 37 (D Churston) S Dow 3-8-9	S Sanders	80
17	(8)	330056	TINKER OSMASTON 34 (CD,F,S) (J Lull) R Hodges 7-8-8	R Cochrane	95
18	(19)	200443	INTIAASH 12 (C,D,F,S) (R Howard Thomas) D Haydn Jones 6-8-8	N Callan (5)	92
19	(5)	160-40	ALAMODE 103 (F) (T Rossiter) J Pearce 4-8-2	A Peall (5)	84

BETTING: 7-1 Cauda Equina, 8-1 Antonia's Double, Fairy Prince, 10-1 Sea-Deer, Intiaash, White Emir, 12-1 Hard To Figure, Longwick Lad, Majalis, Tinker Osmaston, 14-1 Intiaash, Samwar, 16-1 others.

1997: MONTENDRE 10-9-11 J Reid (14-1) M Heaton-Ellis 18 ran

FORM FOCUS Hard To Figure 3¼l 11th of 18 to Masha-Il in handicap at Goodwood (6f, good to firm) with Blundell Lane (2lb better off) 12l 17th. White Emir 3¼l 6th of 12 to Repertory in handicap at Epsom (5f, firm). Majalis ¾l 3rd of 12 to Discrimination in 3yo claiming stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). Sea-Deer 2¾l 3rd of 12 to Levelled in stakes at Lingfield (6f, good to firm) with Fairy Prince (2lb better off) 5½l 7th. Cauda Equina beat Lord High Admiral 1l in 15-runner handicap at Salisbury (5f, good). Fairy Prince 3l 4th of 15 to La Doyenne in handicap at Beverley (5f, good to firm). Samwar 2l 5th of 16 to Royal Dome in handicap at Carlisle (5f, good to soft). Antonia's Double beat Bollin Ann 3l in 5-runner maiden stakes at Newcastle (5f, good). Tinker Osmaston 3¾l 6th of 9 to Apple Sauce in handicap at Bath (5f 11yd, good). Intiaash 9l 3rd of 16 to Rainbow Rain in handicap at Lingfield (7f, AW).

WHITE EMIR found five furlongs at Epsom too sharp last week and has solid claims

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bath: 2.30 Amington Girl, Sumbawa. 5.00 Blundell Lane. Hamilton Park: 2.15 Xsynna. 3.15 Ajjae. 5.00 Longwick Lad

Edabiya is new star of Oxx tale

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

EDABIYA showed herself a filly to be reckoned with for next season's classics with success in the group one Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh yesterday.

The Aga Khan-owned half-sister to Edabiyla kept her unbeaten record with an impressive two-length victory, and her connections believe she will emerge as a serious Oaks candidate next year.

"She is maybe not the kind of filly to aim at the Guineas, even though she has shown a lot of speed," her trainer, John Oxx, said. The daughter of Rainbow Quest is likely to have one more run this season, in either the Fillies' Mile at Ascot or the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp.

Edabiya, who started the 9-4 favourite yesterday, will be a formidable opponent in either considering the way she overcame minor traffic problems and windy conditions to beat Fear And Greed.

Bookmakers were divided over her classic prospects. Ladbrokes quotes her at 10-1 for both the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks, while William Hill offers 16-1 for the Oaks and 25-1 for the 1,000 Guineas.

Wannabe Grand did best of the British, fading to finish fourth after being right in contention at the furlong pole. Her rider, Pat Eddery, said: "After her last run I thought she would get seven furlongs, but she took a pull and just didn't get home. At six furlongs she had the race won and back over that trip I'm sure she will win a good race."

Hula Angel was prominent for a long way but weakened to finish eighth, while Henry Cecil's Enemy Action was a disappointing eleventh.

Richard Hannon's Tadwiga provided some compensation in the group three Matron Stakes when beating Darina by half a length.

CURRAGH DETAILS

Going: yielding to soft

4.10 MOYGLARE STUD STAKES (Group I: 2-Y-O fillies: £84,300: 7f)

1, EDABIYA (J P Murtagh, 9-4 fav); 2, Fear And Greed (J P Spencer, 12-1); 3, Crystal Downs (J A Heffernan, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Wannabe Grand (4th), Sunspangled (5th), 7 Enemy Action, 8 Anthem Of Love, 12 Polaire (6th), Hula Angel, Camargo, Grandiose Idea, 14 Pink Coral, 33 Rainbow Amethyst. 13 Ran. NR: Brownsfield, Floating Agenda. 2l, 1l, ½l, 1l, 1l. J Oxx in Ireland. Tote: £3.00; £2.20, £3.60, £7.60. DF: £25.70. CSF: £34.07.

SPECIALISTS

BATH: Trainers: R Guest, 4 winners from 11 runners, 36.4%; J Dunlop, 9 from 38, 23.7%; J Berry, 13 from 57, 22.8%; L Cumani, 3 from 14, 21.4%; I Balding, 19 from 95, 20.0%; P Cole, 15 from 78, 19.2%; D Chappell, 3 from 16, 18.8%. Jockeys: C Lowther, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; Martin Dwyer, 13 from 75, 17.3%; K Fallon, 4 from 24, 16.7%; J Reid, 21 from 126, 16.7%; R Cochrane, 11 from 75, 14.7%; Paul Eddery, 12 from 82, 14.6%; T Quinn, 19 from 137, 13.9%.

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Sweet As A Nut. 2.45 Foist. 3.15 Stolen Tear. 3.45 Jacmar. 4.15 Celebration Cake. 4.45 Beau Roberto.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 SWEET AS A NUT (nap). 3.45 Wuxi Venture. 4.45 Urgent Reply.

GOING: SOFT — DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.15 HYNDFORD NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,453: 5f 4yd) (7 runners)

1	(4)	5246	SNAP CRACKER 12 (D,G,S) M Quinn 9-7	F Norton	[78]
2	(7)	3105	SWEET AS A NUT 26 (BF,CD,F,G,S) C Dwyer 9-2	J Fortune	72
3	(2)	2035	XSYNNA 24 (B,BF) S C Williams 8-11	G Duffield	71
4	(1)	2423	PALACE GREEN 29 (D) D Chapman 8-7	A Culhane	74
5	(6)	6406	SO WILLING 45 M Dods 8-4	Dale Gibson	67
6	(5)	6201	LADYCAKE 11 (D,G) J Berry 8-0	P Fessey	70
7	(3)	3022	WIND IN WINNIPEG 19 J Wainwright 7-10	J McAuley (7)	70

7-2 Palace Green, 9-2 Sweet As A Nut, 5-1 Snap Cracker, Wind In Winnipeg, 11-2 Xsynna, Ladycake, 8-1 So Willing.

2.45 TEAM KIER APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP
(£2,486: 5f 4yd) (18)

1	(1)	6200	JUST BOB 9 (CD,G,S) S Kettlewell 9-9-10	R FitzPatrick (3)	73
2	(15)	1500	FOIST 45 (C,G,S) M W Easterby 6-9-8	S Finnamore (7)	82
3	(18)	0060	NIFTY NORMAN 9 (D,G,S) J Berry 4-9-6	P Bradley (5)	56
4	(2)	0033	SOMOSIERRA 24 (S) J Berry 3-9-4	P Fessey	65
5	(8)	5-00	RHINEFIELD BEAUTY 19 J Goldie 3-8-12	R Fowley (7)	69
6	(12)	0041	LA DOYENNE 9 (D,F,G) C Booth 4-8-9	R Mullen	82
7	(3)	0036	SHARP GAYLE 19 (BF) J Semple 3-8-9	R Winston	65
8	(13)	0655	BIFF-EM 21 (CD,F,G) Miss L Perratt 4-8-7	J McAuley (5)	67
9	(9)	0014	SUPERFRILLS 12 (CD,S) Miss L Siddall 5-8-7	A McCarthy	73
10	(6)	0500	FAIRY DOMINO 21 (CD,S) M Quinn 3-8-6	Emily Joyce (7)	64
11	(4)	6506	HENRY THE HAWK 21 (CD,F,S) M Dods 7-8-4	C Teague	[87]
12	(10)	0-00	SUEDORO 11 (CD,F,S) J Goldie 8-8-1	P Goode (5)	57
13	(11)	0400	PALLIUM 11 (CD,F,G) D Nolan 10-8-0	P Fitzsimons (5)	78
14	(7)	0060	ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 26 (CD,F,G,S) D Barker 6-7-12	Jenny Benson (7)	82
15	(17)	/050	LADY BENSON 2 W Brisbourne 5-7-11	C Cogan (5)	74
16	(16)	0440	CAPTAIN CARAT 19 (D,F,G) D Chapman 7-7-11	Kimberley Hart (3)	80
17	(14)	5230	DONA FILIPA 24 (D,F) Miss L Siddall 5-7-11	Darren Moffatt	73
18	(5)	0300	LEADING PRINCESS 11 (B,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 7-7-10	P Hanagan (7)	62

6-1 La Doyenne, 7-1 Superfrills, 8-1 Foist, Somosierra, 10-1 Just Bob, Sharp Gayle, Biff-Em, Henry The Hawk, 12-1 others.

3.15 EBF PLUMB CENTER MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,371: 1m 65yd) (8)

1	(3)	6	AJJAE 27 (V) I Semple 9-0	R Lappin	–
2	(4)		ANNIVERSARY DAY W Cunningham 9-0	D Pears	–
3	(2)	00	DECODED 14 J Eyre 9-0	T Williams	36
4	(7)	50	LOVE DIAMONDS 49 M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	–
5	(5)	0	ROMERO 18 C Thornton 9-0	Dean McKeown	22
6	(1)		DANCIN' DOLL J J O'Neill 8-9	J Carroll	–
7	(8)	555	PENANG PEARL 54 (BF) M Quinn 8-9	A Whelan	54
8	(6)	3	STOLEN TEAR 30 M Johnston 8-9	D Holland	[58]

4-5 Stolen Tear, 4-1 Penang Pearl, 6-1 Romero, 8-1 Love Diamonds, 10-1 others.

3.45 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH TROPHY HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,035: 1m 65yd) (10)

1	(5)	3100	RAPIER 35 (D,F,S) M Hammond 4-10-0	D Holland	73
2	(6)	0015	WUXI VENTURE 7 (D,G,S) S Woods 3-9-12	G Duffield	88
3	(10)	0-00	SELLETTE 9 (D,S) D Haydn Jones 4-9-8	F Norton	48
4	(4)	0030	JACMAR 83 (C,F,G) Miss L Perratt 3-9-7	J Weaver	78
5	(7)	6300	TAKHLID 13 (CD,F,S) D Chapman 7-9-3	A Culhane	[95]
6	(3)	-300	ANTARCTIC STORM 22 (S) R Fahey 5-8-12	R Winston (3)	90
7	(2)	0446	STURGEON 16 K Morgan 4-8-11	P Fitzsimons (7)	93
8	(1)	4100	FUTURE PROSPECT 16 (D,S) M Johnston 4-8-11	J Carroll	84
9	(8)	6425	MOVING PRINCESS 7 Miss S Hall 3-8-4	J McAuley (7)	92
10	(9)	5314	TRAILBLAZER 6 C Thornton 4-8-0	J Fanning	84

9-2 Antarctic Storm, 5-1 Wuxi Venture, 11-2 Rapier, Trailblazer, 8-1 Sellette, Takhlid, 10-1 Jacmar, Future Prospect, Moving Princess, 12-1 Sturgeon.

4.15 M C G STAFFING SERVICES SELLING STAKES (£2,360: 1m 1f 36yd) (11)

1	(10)	1000	BIRCHWOOD SUN 13 (V,C,F,G,S) M Dods 8-9-9	J Weaver	61
2	(1)	4014	CELEBRATION CAKE 21 (CD,S) Miss L Perratt 6-9-9	J Carroll	[65]
3	(6)	6646	NOBBY BARNES 5 (CD,G,S) E Incisa 9-9-9	Kim Tinkler	47
4	(7)	0600	TAKE NOTICE 51 M Wane 5-9-4	R FitzPatrick (5)	42
5	(11)	0040	WALTZ TIME 21 (G) I Semple 4-9-4	R Lappin	44
6	(9)	0625	WENTBRIDGE LAD 9 (D,G,S) W Brisbourne 8-9-4	A McCarthy (3)	61
7	(8)	1-00	WESTERN VENTURE 9 (CD,F) M Wane 5-9-4	J McAuley (7)	–
8	(5)	2045	PORTITE SOPHIE 21 M Brittain 7-8-13	D Mernagh (7)	61
9	(4)	3500	CULCRAGGIE 31 J Eyre 3-8-12	A Culhane	49
10	(2)	3480	PROLETTE 12 J FitzGerald 3-8-7	J Fortune	60
11	(3)	4400	TIGGY SILVANO 137 M Quinn 3-8-7	A Whelan	35

4-1 Celebration Cake, 5-1 Wentbridge Lad, 11-2 Prolette, 6-1 Birchwood Sun, 8-1 Nobby Barnes, Waltz Time, 10-1 Take Notice, Portite Sophie, 14-1 others.

4.45 STONEFIELD HANDICAP (£2,500: 1m 4f) (18)

1	(6)	3021	SPARTAN ROYALE 12 (S) P Monteith 4-10-0	R Studholme (5)	59
2	(9)	2221	TEN PAST SIX 12 (V,C,D,G,S) M Wane 6-9-11	J Carroll	61
3	(18)	1106	URGENT REPLY 21 (CD,G,S) C Dwyer 5-9-11	D Holland	60
4	(10)	0204	DARGO 28 C Thornton 4-9-10	Dean McKeown	59
5	(15)	3615	PHILMIST 26 (B,CD,G,S) Miss L Perratt 6-9-5	N Kennedy	68
6	(17)	1346	BEAU ROBERTO 9 (C,F,S) J Goldie 4-9-5	R Fowley (7)	68
7	(13)	4600	SALSEE LAD 11 (V) I Semple 4-9-0	R Winston (3)	68
8	(12)	6560	PORTUGUESE LIL 41 M Sowerby 5-8-13	D Pears	63
9	(1)	4442	LORD ADVOCATE 26 (V,C,D,S) D Nolan 10-8-13	V Halliday	[77]
10	(8)	0-05	SHARK 9 (F) K Morgan 5-8-13	P Fitzsimons (7)	50
11	(11)	00-3	OAKBURY 12 Miss L Siddall 6-8-12	L Charnock	35
12	(5)	0483	UNIFORM 14 Miss S Hall 3-8-12	J McAuley (7)	61
13	(16)	5-01	NORTHERN ACCORD 26 (C,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-11	J Fortune	60
14	(7)	6430	DAUPHIN 17 (D,F,G,S) W Musson 5-8-10	Dale Gibson	74
15	(14)	3260	KATIE'S CRACKER 12 M Dods 3-8-10	F Norton	62
16	(4)	0205	CULTURED KING 12 (B) M W Easterby 3-8-9	T Lucas	53
17	(3)	4126	TARRADALE 51 (BF,C,S) C Booth 4-8-9	J Weaver	63
18	(2)	53-5	FATEHALKHAIR 46J B Ellison 6-8-3	T Williams	35

6-1 Northern Accord, 7-1 Lord Advocate, 8-1 Spartan Royale, 10-1 Ten Past Six, Beau Roberto, Uniform, 12-1 Urgent Reply, Philmist, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Williams, 11 winners from 22 runners, 50.0%; C Dwyer, 3 from 7, 42.9%; D Haydn Jones, 14 from 68, 20.6%; M Johnston, 38 from 187, 20.3%; M W Easterby, 6 from 32, 18.8%. JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 46 winners from 172 rides, 26.7%; A McCarthy, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J Fortune, 30 from 148, 20.3%; D Pears, 7 from 41, 17.1%; N Kennedy, 15 from 103, 14.6%.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Haydock Park

Going: good

2.00 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, Alcazar (K Fallon, 11-2); 2, Rokeby Bowl (5-1); 3, Perfect Paradigm (9-4 fav). 9 ran. Nk, 6l. J Dunlop. Tote: £6.80; £2.30, £1.40, £1.40. DF: £22.10. CSF: £30.26. Tricast: £72.35.

2.30 (1m) 11, Bienamado (J Reid, 2-1). 11, Masterthetroster (J Fortune, 3-1); 3, Crown Of Trees (Evens fav). 3 ran. Dd-ht, 4l. P Chapple-Hyam (Bienamado), T Easterby (Masterthetroster). Tote: Masterthetroster £1.50, Bienamado £1.50. DF: £5.30. CSF: Masterthetroster and Bienamado £3.81, Bienamado and Masterthetroster £3.21. NR: West For Me.

3.00 (7f 30yd) 1, Caledonian Colours (M J Kinane, 4-1); 2, Entertainer (4-1); 3, Grand Maitre (5-1) Bayeas (4th) 100-30 fav. 12 ran. Nk, 5l. M Stoute. Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £12.90. CSF: £19.18.

3.30 (6f) 1, Tamansk (T Sprake, 13-2); 2, Bolshoi (10-1); 3, Tomba (13-2). Elnadim 4-1 fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, ½l. R Charlton. Tote: £9.50; £2.40, £3.10, £2.90. DF: £43.80. Trifecta: £572.30. CSF: £65.69.

4.05 (7f 30yd) 1, Granny's Pet (T Quinn, 9-1); 2, Adjutant (10-1); 3, Vasan (20-1); 4, Always Alight (12-1). Captain Logan 11-4 fav. 16 ran. 4l, 1¾l. P Cole. Tote: £9.20; £1.80, £2.60, £4.10, £3.00. DF: £49.30. CSF: £91.11. Tricast: £1,654.67.

4.40 (5f) 1, Maladerie (T Quinn, 7-1); 2, Squire Corrie (9-2 fav); 3, Palacegate Touch (11-1). 12 ran. NR: Ocker. Sh hd, nk. M Channon. Tote: £10.50; £3.10, £2.10, £2.40. DF: £22.80. CSF: £39.01. Tricast: £332.36.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £9,211.44 carried forward to Bath today).

Placepot: £189.90. Quadpot: £60.00.

Epsom

1.50 1, Pal Of Mine (7-4 fav); 2, Lady Melbourne (12-1); 3, Ivor's Investment (4-1). 8 ran.

2.25 1, Little Gem (9-4 fav); 2, Fort Sumter (4-1); 3, Mancala (25-1). 6 ran. NR: High Clanty.

2.55 1, Batchworth Belle (9-1); 2, Mrs Malaprop (13-2); 3, Sharp Pearl (20-1). Polly Golightly 11-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Forgotten Times.

3.25 1, Chief Cashier (7-1); 2, Edan Heights (11-1); 3, Zurs (8-1). Silver Groom 4-1 fav. 10 ran.

4.00 1, Crimson Tide (11-4); 2, Punishment (8-1); 3, Ferny Hill (6-1). Ivan Luis 2-1 fav. 5 ran. NR: Polar Prince, Rabah.

4.35 1, Montecristo (8-1); 2, Galapino (6-1); 3, Assured Gamble (8-1). Indimaaj 5-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Just In Time.

5.10 1, Pay On Red (9-1); 2, Transylvania (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Take A Turn (8-1). My Bold Boyo 5-1 jt-fav. 15 ran.

Thirsk

2.10 1, Margaret's Dancer (7-2 fav); 2, Final Claim (8-1); 3, Anditz (25-1). 18 ran.

2.40 1, Moutahddee (11-2); 2, Just Name It (Evens fav); 3, Fantazia (8-1). 8 ran. NR: Pinmoor Hill.

3.10 1, Truffle (5-4 fav); 2, Highly Fancied (9-1); 3, Just For You Jane (4-1). 12 ran.

3.45 1, Queens Consul (15-2); 2, Discrimination (16-1); 3, Delirious Moment (14-1); 4, Northern Blessing (12-1). Pride of Pendle 4-1 fav. 18 ran.

4.15 1, House Of Dreams (12-1); 2, Cashmere Lady (11-2); 3, Hasta La Vista (8-1); 4, Royal Castle (10-1). Colway Ritz 3-1 fav. 17 ran. NR: Wosaita.

4.50 1, Most (33-1); 2, Bahamian Pirate (20-1); 3, Madmun (2-1 fav). 14 ran.

5.20 1, Mukarrab (3-1 fav); 2, Ajnad (12-1); 3, Collacar (20-1); 4, Harvey's Future (9-2). 24 ran.

5.50 1, Archie Babe (8-1); 2, Verposen (10-1); 3, Meg (16-1). Riversdale 13-8 fav. 11 ran.

Stratford

2.15 1, Marx Mistress (11-2); 2, Valiant Dash (4-1); 3, Killing Time (5-2 fav). 10 ran.

2.45 1, Change The Reign (9-4 fav); 2, Swing Quartet (9-2); 3, Poldon Pride (9-2). 8 ran.

3.15 1, Temper Lad (11-2); 2, Lamborni Lad (20-1); 3, Saxon Victory (20-1). Charlie's Gold 11-8 fav. 12 ran.

3.50 1, Guttendge (4-1); 2, Haunting Music (9-4); 3, Silent Cracker (2-1 fav). 7 ran.

4.20 1, Out Ranking (5-4 fav); 2, Elusive Star (9-2); 3, Desert Fighter (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Master Millfield.

4.55 1, Youbetterbelieveit (11-8 fav); 2, Vintage Taittinger (7-2); 3, Caspian Beluga (11-1). 7 ran.

5.30 1, First Light (13-2); 2, Proper Primitive (66-1); 3, Mo's Boy (4-5 fav). 9 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, Bank On Him (6-1); 2, Al's Fella (6-1); 3, Pursuit Venture (10-1). Amy Marlin 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. NR: Menikato.

7.30 1, Over The Moon (7-1); 2, Ablaal (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Muji (16-1). Scathebury 7-2 jt-fav. 12 ran.

8.00 1, Diamond Drill (10-1); 2, Wilton (50-1); 3, First Consul (13-8 fav). 12 ran.

8.30 1, Consultant (10-11 fav); 2, Crystal Lass (25-1); 3, Kilbowie Hill (16-1). 11 ran. NR: Sydney Safehands.

9.00 1, Areish (6-1); 2, Bonne Ville (12-1); 3, Look Who's Calling (9-2). Mandhar 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran.

9.30 1, Italian Symphony (9-1); 2, Kosevo (11-2); 3, Dancing Mystery (8-1). General Klaire 4-1 fav. 13 ran.

LEADERS ON THE FLAT

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Races won	Level stakes
J Berry	101	90	63	3	-45.65
R Hannon	91	83	90	2	-231.42
H Cecil	83	52	43	4	+6.00
J Dunlop	81	69	46	2	-92.90
M Johnston	70	76	50	4	+7.31
M Stoute	63	44	38	2	+17.15
J Gosden	56	51	38	4	-71.81
M Channon	52	56	46	2	-87.59

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
K Fallon	147	110	107	3	-85.75
L Dettori	100	75	47	6	-72.63
D Holland	99	82	66	0	+72.83
J Fortune	85	68	73	4	-99.29
T Quinn	82	78	65	5	-78.67
J Reid	80	61	63	3	-91.89
K Darley	77	60	60	6	-44.43
Pat Eddery	74	71	54	5	-177.74

RAPID RACELINE
09066 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
BATH 101 201
HAMILTON 102 202
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,256.40	Allied Domecq	503	– 3	4.9	12.2
1,710.20	Bass (HP)†	337½		5.6	14.5
6.52	Burn Stewart	11	+ ½	19.3	
21,025.70	Diageo	586	– 19	3.8	25.6
112.90	Glenmorangie A	800	– 10	2.1	18.3
307.80	Highland Dist	2306½	– 3	4.9	10.7
125.20	Matthew Clark†	141½	– 3½	11.5	4.8
9.41	Morpeth W	39½	–		
2,491.40	SA Breweries	846½	+ 9½	3.7	13.3

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18,305.90	ABN-AMRO	1318½	– 21½	2.4	18.7
15,455.00	Abbey Nat	1093	– 37	3.7	16.1
5,002.00	Alliance & Leic	858½	– 58½	3.3	16.0
6,174.40	Allied Irish	712	– 104	2.7	19.8
4,421.70	Aus New Z	300	– 8½	6.9	
25,372.90	Bank America	3716½	– 758½		
7,392.60	Bank Scotland	600	– 11	2.1	16.0
18,474.50	Barclays†	1230	– 78½	4.8	11.3
4,621.70	Bk of Ireland	900	– 43	2.8	14.6
36,566.80	Citicorp	5796½	– 1697		
6,749.20	Commercial	1671½	+ 28½	3.2	
8,719.20	Dbl Xchr Aus †	2738½	+ 43½	2.7	81.6
18,328.20	Deutsche Bk	3665½	– 171½	1.7	
461.40	Espirito Santo	1165½	– 9½	3.2	
4,757.00	Fgn Bank †	164½	+ ½	3.3	33.4
9,855.30	HSBC†	1120	– 109	5.8	10.3
19,932.00	HSBC HK†	1100	– 126	5.9	10.7
17,815.60	Halifax†	722½	+ 22½	4.2	19.8
580.60	Irish Perm†	617½	+ ½	2.6	17.9
35,788.70	Lloyds TSB†	696½	– 54½	3.5	18.9
10,533.20	Nat Aust Bk	735	– 12½	4.5	
16,656.30	Nat Westm	939	– 114	4.4	16.1
2,317.70	Northern Rock	522	+ 36½	2.6	17.4
7,210.00	Rnl Bk Scot	824	– 34	3.4	15.3
4,170.80	Stand Chartrd	417½	– 42½	5.8	7.1
14,061.70	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
5,615.60	Westpac	315½	– 7½	4.0	
5,254.10	Woolwich†	329	+ 6	3.6	15.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
53.20	Ass Street Grp	270	– 20	10.6	9.0
6,487.20	Bass	816	+ 14	4.3	14.1
17.50	Bth Inv Re Bdnt	52½	– 2	4.8	16.9
33.80	Berkmnd Brw	162½	– 2	4.8	11.4
186.40	Cap Centre Rest	96	– 4	3.6	14.9
1,711.80	Chrysalis Grp†	554	+ 1	1.1	36.4
56.60	Clubhse P 'A'	230	– 8½	3.4	11.2
167.80	Enterprise Inns	2417½	– 3½	4.0	13.8
71.40	Fuller Sm 'A'	518	– 7½	2.8	14.4
1,067.80	Greenalls Grp	368	– 6	6.0	10.3
335.90	Greene Kingt	551½	+ 19	4.2	10.1
44.60	Groups Chw Ger	2127½	– 12½	1.9	15.0
40.90	Hardy Hanse	2041½	– 5½	7.2	8.9
49.10	Holt J	1756	– 7½	4.8	8.5
27.60	Int Restaurant	1½		4.8	6.6
159.20	Mansfield	2430½	– 6½	4.1	9.3
187.40	Mitchn Thmp	385	– 8½	5.4	8.9
116.20	Morland	3575½	– 15	4.7	9.5
87.20	Old Eng Pub	252	– 25½	1.7	16.0
2.68	Pacemaker	22½			
423.20	PizzaExpress	6339½	+ 36½	0.7	28.6
30.00	Rancotts (H)	215	– 10	2.9	22.6
124.30	Regent Inns	139	– 2½	3.6	9.9
84.50	SFI	147½	– 1½	4.1	17.9
4,526.00	Sand & Mar	730	– 14½	4.0	13.7
29.70	Shig & Lattice	269½	– 17	3.9	
370.70	Vsn Group	252½	+ 3	5.6	10.4
373.40	Wetherspoon JD	190	+ 5½	1.4	30.4
1,584.10	Whitbread	757	– 39	3.5	14.1
255.10	Workmnsh D	417½	– 7½	5.8	9.0
200.60	Yates Bros	314	– 25	1.4	19.4
17.60	Young 'A'	615	+ 2½	3.3	21.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
723.70	Aggregate Inds	597½	– 4½	3.7	20.4
175.00	Anglian Groupt	189	– 3	6.6	10.3
1,511.10	BPB	292	+ 2½	3.8	13.1
30.60	Bagnerge Bm	74½	– 2½	6.0	6.0
9.30	Blackleys	37½	– 1	5.5	42.8
2,160.10	Blue Circle	278	– 15	5.4	15.7
25.30	Brandon PLC	91½	+ 15	7.9	11.1
2,781.40	CRH	724	+ 75	1.5	18.0
2.73	Caledonad Rty	45½		10.8	37
20.90	Cape	130½	– 5½	6.2	11.7
740.70	Carason	143	+ 4½	4.2	9.9
177.30	Caradon pf	98½	– 1	9.2	
4.34	Chelsea Gdn	50½	– 5	10.6	2.6
6.85	Dyson (A&H)	415	– 10	7.8	22.5
13.80	Dyson 'A'	100	–	7.5	5.4
17.10	Ennstone	37½	– 1		
30.50	Epwin	139½	– 3	9.2	7.1
2.27	Gibbs & Dandy	131½	– 3½	3.9	10.1
160.10	Graham Grp	114½	– 3½	6.8	9.6
54.70	Halstead (J)	127½	– 7½	7.0	11.9
2,116.10	Hanson	324½	+ 15½	4.6	11.2
360.40	Heywarth	100	– 1½	7.7	
16.40	Hewerson	100	– 1½	9.4	5.4
193.20	Heywd Wtm	212	– ½	8.1	6.6
184.10	Ibstock	39½		7.0	9.8
33.10	Jarvis†on	315	– 2½	4.8	12.0
16.90	Lilleshall	58½	– 3	10.5	5.9
283.10	Marley	103½	+ 3½	7.6	8.6
148.80	Marshalls	316	+ 9½	6.3	17.1
410.10	Meggr & Sm	256½	+ 4	6.1	15.9
101.30	Monroe	61	– 3	3.6	11.0
735.30	Pilkington	67½	– 10½	7.4	36.9
33.70	Pilkington†	72	– ½		
127.40	Polypipe	106	– 2½	4.1	7.9
1,978.40	RMC	756	– 36	4.3	11.0
41.70	Robersnd	86½	– ½	7.1	9.9
509.80	Rugby Group	78½	+ 5½	6.4	11.3
19.60	Russell (A)	78½	– 5	4.8	11.9
180.10	SIG	153	– 7	6.4	7.8
3.23	SWP	15	– ½		
33.50	Sharpe & Fisher	147½	– 13½	5.3	9.1
42.80	Spring Ram	9½	– ½	1.4	
738.70	Tarmac	77½	– 2½	9.1	9.3
9.02	Tilcon	82	– 3	8.1	8.5
416.20	Travis Perkns	2874½	– 65½	4.3	15.7
6.83	Ibstock	61½	– 6	6.1	7.9
201.80	Ultrakrame	212½	– 6	2.8	18.4
1,861.70	Worseley	290	– 10	5.0	9.3

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
329.50	Albright & Wil	105	– 5	6.8	10.4
12.10	Amber Ind	77½	– 11½	9.1	6.6
56.00	Arch Chemicals	172½	– 7½	4.2	
31.10	Ashlare Ex	67½	– 3	12.6	11.8
14,161.30	BASF Dld	2298½	– 165½	3.1	
3,963.10	BOC	790	– 18	4.4	17.5
1,172.80	BTP	387½	– 4	3.9	17.9
52.60	Bamer Chem	19		10.0	5.8
16,444.70	Bayer (DM50)	2771½	– 63½	2.6	
103.80	Bugden	142½	– 5	2.5	9.2
68.60	Brent Chems	98½	– ½	3.8	11.1
417.20	Br Vita	213½	– 4½	3.8	
141.20	Brunner Mond	1825	– 25	3.8	81.6
58.30	Cuneng (W)	197½	– 9	5.9	9.4
76.90	Cty Technology	198	– 1	3.0	30.5
1,817.90	Courtaulds	642	– 34	3.1	27.1
382.00	Croda	2605	– 39	3.7	15.9
62.40	Dorfler	344½	– 58	3.1	14.7
373.20	Elementis	86½	– 12½	2.4	11.0
226.70	Elec & Eveard†	231	– 1½	5.7	9.4
25.20	Ems Colour	57	– 1½	5.5	9.9
88.00	Hickson	58	– 3	5.2	7.3
13,978.20	Hoechst	2378½	– 148½		
4,367.50	ICI†	587	– 66	5.5	20.5
594.50	Ingpac	337	+ 3	2.6	16.5
340.70	Kalon†	95½	– 6½	2.1	15.9
1,033.00	Laporte†	530	– 38½	4.9	10.7
11.30	Meridem	30½	– ½	9.8	2.9
6.38	Metalrec	26½	– 2	6.6	6.6
60.70	Pursuit	208	– 6½	3.4	13.1
370.10	Scapa	153½	– 2½	5.0	10.1
14,625.80	Tatasta Chem	1664	+ 169½	0.6	21.0
125.30	Victrex	160	+ 7½	3.9	12.7
25.10	Wilsonlme R	520	– 15	6.5	8.3
63.90	Yule Cato Grp	139½	– 4	8.6	6.8
429.10	Yule Cato	282½	– 16	4.4	11.6

CONSTRUCTION

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7.74	AAF Inds	33½	– 1		7.4
96.80	Abbeyn	250	– 20	4.0	
159.70	Allied	1020	– 30	4.9	15.7
312.10	Amec	150	+ 11½	4.5	14.7
168.90	Amey	575	+ 32½	2.5	15.4
126.70	Andrews Sykes	147½	– 2½	2.5	14.7
558.00	Actiscot	1845	– 9	1.6	18.3
14.70	Averdale	36	+ 4½	5.6	11.1
44.40	Bardl	311		5.6	8.6
367.00	Barrat Devs	157½	– 2½	7.4	6.9
317.10	Beazer	132½	+ 2½	6.4	7.5
257.40	Bellway	1210	– 10	3.9	9.2
13.30	Bettercrch	29½			10.1
6.56	Ben Bailey†	62½		5.0	6.1
638.30	Berkeley Gp	1065½	– 12½	2.5	9.4
18.40	Bett Bros	100	– 2½	5.0	6.4
48.80	Bovl (Henry)	180	– 6	6.9	7.1
187.80	Bows Horses	166½	+ 3	7.1	7.3
8.55	Brianmra Grp	37½	– 1	4.0	15.1
258.50	Bryant	180	– 2	5.7	8.0
49.10	CALA	103½	+ 3½	5.5	
3.13	Campbll & Arm#	3			
12.00	Clarke TI	97½	– 1	8.5	5.9
67.40	Costain	20	– 1½		
65.40	Countrwide	85½	+ 3	4.6	6.7
101.20	Crest Nicholson†	96	– 3	3.7	6.3
12.50	Crouch	70	– 1½	6.7	6.3
21.60	Dev Group†	230	– 20½	4.0	12.4
22.50	Dowlais	81½	– 3½	7.3	5.5
17.10	Galliford	150	– 2½	4.1	9.8
88.70	Gibbons (Alf)	850	– 12½	7.7	12.5
22.50	Hawtock Tarm	81½	– 3½	7.3	5.5
385.30	Hewden-Stuart	138	+ 6½	3.3	11.6
5.02	Howard Hdgs	19	– 2½	6.6	18.9
664.50	Jarvis	581½	+ 2½	4.0	10.8
95.10	Keller	168	– 19½	3.0	15.4
70.90	Ker	219½	– 8	4.1	11.0
159.90	Laing (J)	346	– 3	3.7	18.6
49.00	Laing (L-H% Cv Pf	34½	– 2	7.1	
9.57	Lovell (TJ)	124			
52.60	Meusters (J)	209½		3.8	12.1
137.80	McAlpine (A)	113½	+ 5	8.3	6.7
112.90	McCarthy & S	112	– 12	3.7	8.2
32.10	McKenny	127½	– 5	3.0	14.5
67.50	Morgan Sindall	201	– 3½	3.5	9.7
211.00	Morrison Cons	514½	– 9	3.3	15.8
174.90	Newarth (J)	99	+ 1	3.1	9.1
281.00	Persimmon	157½	+ 18	8.2	6.7
73.30	Peterhouse	80½	– 1	5.7	5.6
24.60	Pochins	118½		2.9	13.1
79.30	Prowting	101½	+ 1½	5.7	6.4
310.70	Redrow	133½	+ 9	3.4	10.2
46.40	Saunders	31½		1.5	18.3
31.60	Swan Hill	98	+ 2½	5.1	10.9
34.90	Tay Homes	119½	– 1½	7.8	9.7
574.10	Taylor Woodrw	144	+ 6½	3.1	10.9
1,218.20	Tilbury Dougls	236	– 8	5.1	13.0
13.10	Try Group	18	– 1½	3.9	6.9
29.90	Vibroplant	64	– ½	7.9	
56.80	Washtenos	90½	– 7	7.3	
16.30	Ward Hdgs†	31	+ 1½	8.9	
169.40	Westbury	150½	– 11½	5.5	7.2
86.00	Wiggins	12½	– 1		17.7
222.20	Wilson (C)	111½	– 1½	9.4	7.8
479.70	Wilson Bowdn	512½	– 1	3.2	9.3
348.60	Wimpey G	104	– 5½	6.9	8.6

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
65.60	Acton Dr Sptc	280½	+ 5	1.7	16.7
9.57	Adam & Harvey†	222½	– 30	12.1	4.0
5.84	Alexanders	14½			
4.60	Ass Pr Dig	9½	+ ½		25.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
85.80	BSG Group	322½	+ 2½	8.5	10.1
4.13	Bestop Power	11½			
1.77	Bogod 'A'†	30½	+ ½	4.5	4.9
229.10	Bremner	48½	– 2½	4.4	10.9
5.40	Bridgend Gp	13½		1.9	21.5
22.00	Brit Fittings	86½	+ 10	7.4	7.1
10.20	Cattyns	310	– 5	5.6	8.3
4.20	Cir Group	11	– 2½		1.3
39.80	Cavendish†	133½	– 18	4.2	8.5
16.40	Cook (DC)	37½	– 1	5.3	7.4
21.00	Dig Motors	103½	– 7	10.6	9.6
18.10	Dominos Bi	107½	+ 2	3.5	7.1
80.70	Diploma	152½	– 4	11.9	6.4
1,500.50	Electrocomponents	950	– 30	3.2	18.6
58.60	Eurodis Elec	95	– 6	7.6	10.5
43.00	European Mart	80	– 3½	9.5	6.1
59.20	Evans Halshaw	184	– 22½	11.9	5.7
16.50	Fbc Indmar	27½	– 3	8.7	8.6
182.50	Fleetwd Gp	227½	+ 4½	5.2	12.6
15.10	Gardner	14	– 1	7.1	6.1
18.00	Glenchewood†	60	– 1½	4.5	7.6
9.12	Glovernigs	102½	– 1	4.9	8.0
23.70	HR Owens	134½	+ 1½	6.9	9.4
174.40	Headlam	255	– 5	3.7	12.3
4.30	Holden Techt	107½	– 2½	7.8	5.9
30.90	ISA Intl†	58		7.1	8.1
813.30	Imperial Tob	1534½	– 89½	7.6	11.7
6.16	Jacks (Wm)	266	– 1	5.2	5.6
696.50	Kwik-Fit	280	+ 3	2.1	17.5
491.80	Lex Service†	428	+ 4½	3.4	10.8
26.60	Lookers†	79½	– 1	13.8	5.1
292.80	Messles (John)	520	– 27	3.7	18.3
16.20	Middlecer	2	– ½		
10.80	Midsteast	20½	– ½	2.9	9.3
25.40	Norbord	128	– 6	5.1	11.3
58.80	Northmber	172	– 8	2.2	11.4
124.80	Parico	171	– 20½	6.8	10.4
104.00	Pendragon	171	– 1½	7.8	8.1
5.00	Penny Gp	149	– 9½	8.7	5.2
578.90	Premier Farnel	213½	– 8	7.6	8.4
42.40	Quads Group	111½	– 4	9.3	6.9
8.84	REA†	95	+ 4	4.2	16.3
3.10	Reece	14½	–		
9.13	Reg	23	– 1½		
4.03	Renson	4½			
5.54	Ross Gp	5½	– ½		8.4
19.90	Ryland	70	– 4½	7.9	5.3
23.00	SSV Instit†	23	– 1½	7.1	10.9
3.11	Salient	12			
66.70	Sanderson Bem	177½	– 8	4.1	6.0
64.20	Sedgemoor	36	– 3½	6.6	9.1
38.40	Sytner	170½	– 12	4.7	9.2
44.80	Time Products	69½	+ 1½	17.5	4.9
34.10	Toast Motor Grp	2½	– 2½	11.4	4.0
48.70	UNECO	308	– 32	2.8	14.2
108.40	United Scats Gp	77½	+ 1½	3.8	12.7
111.80	Vardy (Reg)†	199½	– 2½	5.3	8.2
121.60	WF Elect	855	– 15	2.8	20.0
70.80	Wyko	98	– 3½	4.5	
26.00	Young (H)	115½	– 5	5.1	7.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
358.60	Aracfagata	171	– 19	4.2	12.5
9,302.70	Broken Hill	452	+ 29½	4.6	
18,665.90	BAT	577	– 10	4.9	16.5
456.80	Brwlee Inv	17	– 3	17.2	4.5
24.10	Cogsir	1961½	– 7½	4.6	6.7
343.60	DCC	995	– 40	2.3	12.8
2,606.90	Gallaher	577½	+ 7½	6.4	10.7
9,918.80	Hsch Whamp	2741½	– 19½	4.6	
2,700.20	Imperial Tob	1520	– 21	5.2	12.5
756.70	Jardine Matth	401	+ 1	1.48	4.8
77.10	Lonmo Metals	88	– 2	5.9	12.3
365.00	Powell Duffryn	420	– 26	7.4	10.6
109.40	Siebens	84	– 1	12.0	23.3
1,574.70	Swire Pacific	1152½	– 34½	8.4	9.2
2,832.00	Tomkins†	240	– 7	5.7	10.0
35.10	Unidare	177½	– 12½	9.1	9.8
89.30	Wardle Storeys	347½	– 1	7.6	10.1
389.70	Wescott	249½	– 6½	3.1	11.4
23.30	Whelcrall	49½	– 2	11.7	8.1

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,010.40	Br Energy	657	– 8	3.3	21.0
6,026.60	Eastrnel Exhtt	1030½	– 20½	3.7	16.7
6,359.20	Midland Pwr	516	+ 20	6.5	10.9
5,093.30	PowerGen	786	+ 47	4.6	12.3
2,253.90	Hydro-Elect	573½	+ 21	4.3	12.4
7,319.80	Scottish Power†	611	+ 33½	4.2	14.8
2,696.60	Southern Elect	568	+ 9½	5.3	14.5
734.20	Weldcast	560	+ 9½	5.1	12.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
523.40	ARM Holdings	1095	– 47½		
48.20	Acal	240	+ 2½	5.7	8.4
602.90	Admiral†	952½	– 126½	0.4	44.0
22.50	Amstrad	58	– 1		
17.40	Arlen	75½	– ½	6.3	8.5
196.00	Aztec	63½	– 6	3.0	7.1
50.90	Azlan	47½	–		
366.60	BICC	87	– 1½	17.0	
117.50	Bksh	379	+ 11½	4.8	12.4
637.20	Bowthorpe	410	– 2½	3.4	14.6
3.52	Burgis A	13½	– ½	11.8	7.7
35.10	CML Micro	164	+ ½	5.3	15.4
7.79	Channel Hldgs	81½	– 1	8.1	
110.80	Chloride	469½	– 1	2.2	13.8
92.10	Crtechnlgy	565	– 55	3.2	13.5
139.90	Delta	139	– 9	12.3	5.7
1,080.50	Dowmart	4085½	– 39½	13.9	
71.70	Dwyking Mfrs	467½	– 3½	8.6	8.8
95.30	Druckpf	302½	– 12½	0.8	26.9
654.00	Electrolux 'B'	918½	– 40½	10.2	24.4
23.30	Emess	214½	– ½	3.4	17.9
24,175.80	Ericsson 'B'	1535½	+ 18½	1.0	29.4
398.40	Esmerkom	425	+ 4½	2.0	18.7
248.70	Farey Group	351½	– 20	4.5	7.5
216.30	Filtronict	341½	– 11	0.6	25.9
3.79	Forward Tech	10½	– ½		
11,644.30	GEC†	527	+ 35	3.3	18.4
12.50	Intl Control	22½	+ ½		
7.12	Intelekt	17	– ½	5.6	13.6
6.97	Jasmin	158½	– 20		7.6
6.73	LPA	66	– 4	4.5	21.2
648.30	Mled	615½	+ 3½		
18.70	Nthmpn Tech	52	– 12½	3.1	5.9
106.20	Oxford Instr	211½	– 8½	4.8	9.3
136.30	Pace Micro	644½	+ ½	0.8	
12,365.80	Philips Lnp nv	3825	– 393½	1.3	16.1
13.00	Pozzoni	68½	– 1		
182.30	Prec&Ca A	2175½	– 1	2.6	17.7
9.36	Prestwich	23	– 3½	6.0	6.5
356.50	Psion	468½	– 46½	0.7	44.8
990.40	Racal Electr	341½	+ 16½	2.2	
8.20	Redarmec	49½	– 8	8.7	9.0
263.90	Renishaw	1537½	– 25	3.1	21.2
2.54	Radiane	1	–		
190.30	Rotoro	178½	– 8	5.1	9.3
115.40	SDX Bus Sys	325		1.0	32.0
23.00	Servomex	184	– 8½	6.5	9.0
32.40	Silvermarket	38½	– ½	5.2	7.4
5,700.40	TDK	4281½	+ 281½	0.6	
11.00	TGI	51	– 2½	8.9	5.6
312.50	TLG	166½	+ 19	2.8	30.1
18.40	Tadpole Tech#	18			
30.80	Telference	39½	– 3	6.0	
56.50	Telspec	175	+ 5		21.5
15.80	Thorpe Fit	122½	– 10	4.7	6.7
7.29	Total Systems†	78	– 2½	2.9	10.3
6.64	Ultima Networks	6½	– ½		
222.20	Vertin	72	+ 1	0.2	
35.60	Vglen Technology	21	+ 3	2.4	
159.30	Volcerl	585	– 5½	5.0	14.0

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
30.10	AMV	135½	– 16	4.1	
2,916.40	ALSTOM	1350	– 62½		14.7
16.70	ASM	20			
42.30	Alumasc	105		10.1	4.8
135.40	Alvis	1815½	– 2	3.4	9.5
146.60	Arrol	2335½	– 3½	3.0	8.5
48.80	Asn & Lacy	130½	– 5	7.4	5.3
430	Avesbere Metal	43		5.8	4.7
1,465.70	BBA	348	– 31½	2.3	14.2
4,356.40	BTR	1230½	– 75	2.2	8.7
7,319.80	Bamford	611	+ 33½	4.2	14.8
2,696.60	Bodmin Elect†	568	+ 9½	5.3	14.5
734.20	Weldcast	560	+ 9½	5.1	12.7

ENGINEERING. VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
78.20	Accrod	94	+ ½	8.3	7.3
10.60	Arlow Stream	125	– 11½	8.0	12.6
135.00	Avon Rubber	487½	– 5	4.4	9.7
31.60	Bostrom	186	– 16½	4.9	6.7
368.40	Britax	130	– 4	3.8	14.4
268.60	Dennist	348½	– 4½	2.6	19.6
1,495.30	Fed Tech	313	– 31½	12.0	7.7
4,607.20	GKN†	1448	– 17	2.4	
22,789.50	General Mtr	3408½	– 353½	3.5	
1,429.60	Hestayr†	664	– 14½	4.5	11.5
20,722.10	Honda Motor	2126½	+ 85½	0.4	16.9
315.10	Lake	232½	– 9½	6.5	5.8
2,887.60	LucasVarity	204½	– 7½	2.7	11.8
417.00	Mayflower	165	– 4	2.3	14.4
25.80	Sytner†	106	+ ½	8.1	9.0
1,417.00	T & N	256	– ½	2.7	35.6
12.00	Tand	20½	+ ½		
31.50	Wetcarri	33½	– 1½	3.7	9.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,782.50	AB Food	552½	+ 7½	2.4	16.3
81.80	Acalos & Hunch	185	– 5	7.1	
84.80	Albert Fisher	114½			4.6
15.40	Banks (J Cr)	174	+ 11½	8.3	8.2
713.50	Bass (AG)	981	+ 1	5.5	7.3
31.00	Bassons Coopt	41	+ 1	5.2	8.6
466.20	Bookrs	188	– 21	16.0	8.3
385.40	Brake Bros	742½	– 70	1.9	20.3
11.60	CPL Access	98½	+ 6	6.8	7.5
6,311.50	Cadbury-Schwpt	819	– 66	3.5	21.3
7.60	Cans Making	95	– 1	15.1	4.7
43.60	Crarcrndrl	302½	– 1	4.8	12.3
302.50	Dairy Crest Group	273½	– 3	5.0	10.6
39.60	Daniels S	35	– 3½	1.8	11.5
482.20	Devro

Rio Tinto mines a disappointing seam

COMPANIES

RIO TINTO: Thursday's interim results from the biggest of the mining houses, of which Robert Wilson is chief executive, are likely to prove disappointing. Pre-tax profits are expected to be flat, coming in at about £365 million, virtually unchanged on the corresponding six months last year.

Depressed metal prices will have offset any benefit from acquisitions and increases in profitability. The Comalco subsidiary has already weighed in with numbers that failed to meet market expectations and Borax, Escondida and Kennecott are likely to report a drop in profits at the half-year stage.

Rio Tinto's shares have been trading close to their low for the year, reflecting the drop in metal prices, and brokers fear that the turmoil on world markets will serve to depress prospects further. A modest increase in the dividend from 10.4p to 10.6p is envisaged.

BILLITON: It is hoped that full-year results later today will provide the share price with the impetus to retain its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

The extractive industries sector has been under a cloud although Billiton is capable of delivering a respectable set of results. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits of between £575 million and £590 million, as against £436 million last time. Earnings per share should rise from 12.1p to 13.6p.

Brokers have already had a chance to judge the results from several of Billiton's associate companies, which have made favourable reading. Aluminium and nickel should have risen, while coal and base metals will be down. The problems associated with Russia and Asia are likely only to add to the group's difficulties.

BTR: Brokers will be looking for the first signs of improvement after a £3 billion restructuring programme when interim results are unveiled on Thursday. However, BTR's May trading statement offered little in the way of encouragement, with trading conditions remaining dull. Little has changed since and there may even have been a small deterioration in some areas.

Even so, the market is braced for a further downturn. At the pre-tax level, brokers are forecasting profits in a band of £380 million to £410 million. That compares with £540 million last time, with earnings per share set to drop from 8.4p to 7p.

Further disposals in the engineering division are expected, with margins having come under further pressure. The payout is likely to be pegged at 3.8p.

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA: The media group announced plans to demerge its money-broking operation in July. Half-year results on Wednesday are unlikely to inspire the City, with pre-tax profits likely to come in virtually unchanged at £167 million, or even to show a small downturn. Earnings will be static at 23p a share.

Profits will have been held back by bigger Channel 5 and interactive service losses amounting to about £11 million. Profits overall this year, will be held back by £50 million of investment, including £20 million directed at the group's national newspapers.

Business services will have enjoyed a buoyant performance in the US, while the contribution from broadcasting will be flat at £34 million. By contrast, *Exchange & Mart* has enjoyed double-digit growth. The dividend is expected to grow from 11p to 11.2p.

P&O: This is one company that will be watching the recent downturn on Wall Street with more than just passing interest. The last thing P&O will want to see is a further slowdown in the world economy, which would have a disastrous effect on its shipping container business.

Half-year results tomorrow are expected to show a useful improvement in pre-tax profits, with analysts forecasting in a band from £128 million to £137 million. That compares with £118 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up almost a third at 15p.

The cruise division has been enjoying strong growth, with US volumes up about 5 per cent. With operating profits up 25 per cent, to £90 million, cruises now account for just under 50 per cent of overall profitability.

P&O Nedlloyd has already announced first-half volume and profit numbers that suggest P&O's share of the loss will be about £10 million. This will not impress the City, bearing in mind the size of the capital investment in the business.

Ferries will show useful profits growth on the back of better pricing and lower costs after the completion of the joint venture with Stena in March.

Look out for an increase in the payout to 14p.

WILLIAMS: The company was upbeat about prospects at the annual meeting in May, although it looks as if the bulk of the profits improvement will come in the second half.

A fairly pedestrian performance is expected when the group unveils first-half numbers tomorrow, with estimates ranging from £128 million to £135 million. That is against £123.4 million last time. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is looking for £131 million this time and has pencilled in £323 million for the full year. Earnings are expected to decline from 10.5p to 9.1p per share.

Fire protection has continued to enjoy further sales growth while security has seen the upturn in the US countered by flat trading conditions in Britain and Asia. Meanwhile, the building products side has continued to offload various business and further disposals are expected.

Shareholders can expect an increase in the dividend from 6.15p to 6.5p.

CENTRICA: Brokers are uncertain about the outcome of interim results due out on Thursday. Estimates of net profits range from £30 million to £85 million, with much depending on charges. Last time round the group made £21 million with the bulk of the contribution coming in the second half. As before, there is no dividend.

NORWICH UNION: It will be difficult to gauge the group's interim results due out tomorrow. The comparative figure for last year was based on only 24 weeks. However, brokers are still looking for an underlying improvement, with the group largely unaffected by the weather claims during the first six months. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £418 million compared with £335 million last time. Life profits are reckoned to be 6 per cent ahead, but the improvement in the domestic market will be held back by higher new business strain, while currency movements will have taken the shine off the recovery overseas.

A payment of 4.35p is forecast this time round, with no dividend having been paid in 1997. But a pro forma payment would have been 3.75p, indicating an increase of 12 per cent.

THISTLE HOTELS: Shareholders must be praying for good news on Wednesday after the rollercoaster ride of recent months. Bid approaches sent its share price to 250p in June, only for Nomura, its chosen suitor, to be sent packing after seeking a price cut.

The shares have now sunk below the 1996 flotation price of 170p and last week's sale of 30 hotels for £66 million — well below the £93 million book value — has done little to boost confidence. Mark Finnie, of BT Alex Brown, is forecasting a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £37.3 million to £43.5 million, earnings per share of 6.0p (5.7p) and a dividend of 1.6p (1.4p).

MICHAEL CLARK



Robert Wilson is expected to reveal a flat set of interim results for Rio Tinto on Thursday

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Alexon Group, Bodycote, British Vita, Burmah Castrol, Candover Inv, Dewhirst, Ennstone, Forth Ports, Gaskell, Hodder Headline, IFG Group, Mice Group, Photobition (15 mths), PPL Therapeutics, Relyon, Ryland Group, WSP. **Finals:** Adwest Automotive, Billiton, Bryant, Epic Multimedia, Haynes Pub.

TOMORROW

Interims: Aggregate Industries, William Baird, BBA Group, Brammer, Charter, Dagenham Motors, Expamet Intl, James Fisher, Fishers Int, Hillsdown Holdings, Holmes Place, Huntleigh Technology, Iceland, IMI, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Norwich Union, Novara, HR Owen, Pentland, P&O, Scottish Media Group, Simon Group, Staffware, Williams, Yule Catto & Co. **Statistics:** BRC August retail sales survey, July manufacturing output.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Albright & Wilson, Associated British Ports, Bank of Cyprus, British Fittings, Horace Clarkson, Coats Viyella, Devro, Glynwed Int, Guilton, LucasVarity, Peptide Therapeutics, Premier Oil, PSD, Rugby Group, Alexander Russell, SGB, Signet, Tempus, Thistle Hotels, United News & Media. **Finals:** Beazer Homes, Domestic & General, Gearhouse, Logica. **Statistics:** Bank of England MPC begins its two-day meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: Ask Central, BTR, Bentalls, Booker, Dawson Group, James Beattie, Centrica, Chelsfield, Courtaulds, EBC Group, Gallaher, Goldsmiths Group, Hanson, Heywood Williams, Highcroft Investment, John Laing, Laird Group, Linton Park, Lucas Varity, Mirror Group, John Mowlem, National Express, Pendragon, Peterhouse Group, Queens Moat Houses, Rathbone Brothers, Rio Tinto, Royal Doulton, Serna Group, Shell (int div), Soco Int, Spirax-Sarco, Traffic-master, United Biscuits, Yorkdyde. **Finals:** Brierley Inv, Dalgety, Peak Int Group, Sirdar, Stavert Zigomala. **Statistics:** Three months to July new construction orders, three months to July housing starts, CBI August distributive trades survey, BoE to announce its interest rate decision.

FRIDAY

Interims: British Regional Airlines, Dean Corp, Group-Trust, Lionheart, Television Corp, Arthur Wood & Son. **Finals:** Marlvale Moore.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish Media, Rolls-Royce, Celltech, Polypipe and Stat Plus. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Micro Focus and L Gardner; Sell United News & Media. *The Mail on Sunday*: Buy Blacks Leisure and Isotron. *The Express on Sunday*: Buy Southern Electric, Chorion, and Calderburn; Hold David Brown, Biotrace, and Abbot.

ECONOMY

Duma vote is of prime importance

MORE important than any collection of statistical releases this week will be today's vote in Russia by the Duma on whether to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister and a special meeting within days of Group of Seven deputies in London to discuss the Russian crisis. Developments in Russia's economic situation should remain a huge influence on the behaviour of the big stock markets.

Bonds will be highly sensitive to any hints of impending interest rate cuts in the US and other G7 countries. In Britain, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss rates and is widely tipped to leave monetary policy unchanged, given the enormous uncertainties of the international economic outlook and the slide in stock markets.

The first UK statistics of the week come tomorrow with the British Retail Consortium's latest retail sales monitor. Anecdotal evidence from the high street suggests that retail sales bounced back in August, partly because of better weather.

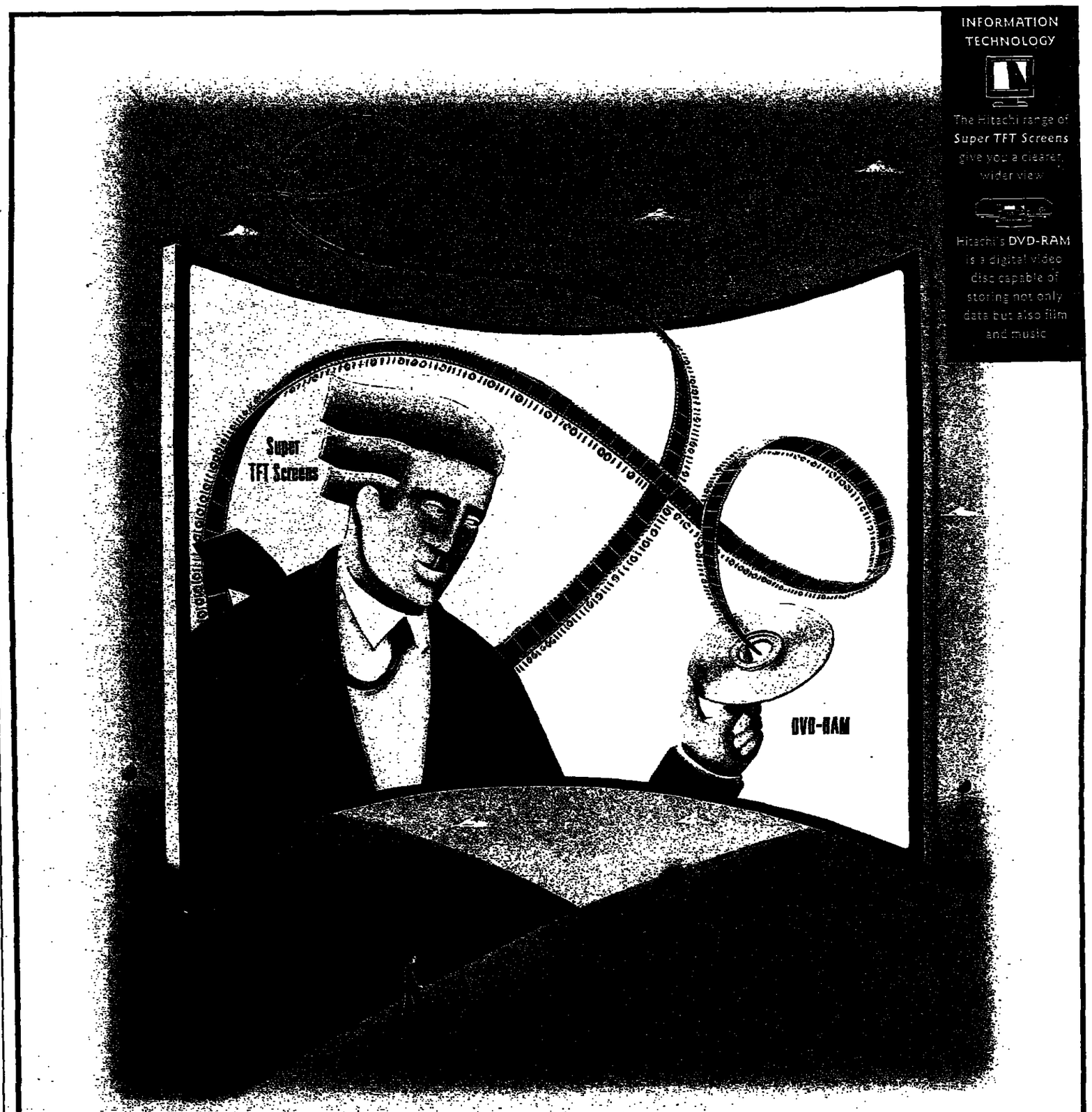
Also published tomorrow are Office for National Statistics figures on activity in industry in July. Both industrial output and manufacturing production are expected in the City to have fallen slightly compared with June, pushing the sector further into recession.

On Wednesday, July figures for new orders in the construction sector and private sector housing starts are published and, on Thursday, the August distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry is released.

Overseas statistical releases include US second-quarter current account figures, out on Thursday. These are expected to show a further deterioration of the US trade position from the record deficit of $47.2 billion (£28 billion) in the first quarter.

This week will also see figures for Japan's July trade performance and second-quarter gross domestic product. Japanese growth is expected to have contracted quite sharply.

JANET BUSH



Hedge fund manager loses $1bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

LEON COOPERMAN, the manager of the Omega hedge fund, one of America's biggest, has lost a quarter of his $4 billion (£2.4 billion) net assets, joining an illustrious circle of the super-rich who have lost more than $1 billion in the recent market plunge.

John Meriwether's $4 billion Long-Term Capital Management has reported a 44 per cent drop in net assets.

Mr Cooperman said that he and his team had invested big sums in hope of a recovery in emerging markets.

Wall Street has fared better, keeping losses far below $1 billion. JP Morgan, the bank, disclosed Russian exposure of $160 million and trading revenue of $300 million in the quarter to August 27, against $657 million in that quarter last year. The bank did not disclose the size of Russian losses. A spokesman said: "Providing overall trading revenues for the quarter so far is a lot more informative."

Morgan's profits are aided by income from merger advice and stock underwriting. In this year's second quarter, this was 31 per cent up, at $334 million. Trading profits rose by 42 per cent, to $920 million.

Insurer aims to grow from the start

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S second-biggest insurance group plans to use its launch this week as a platform to expand by making acquisitions across Europe.

Trading in Allied Zurich, the financial services group formed from the merger of BAT Industries' financial services division and Zurich Group, the Swiss insurer, will begin tomorrow.

The new financial services group, to be known as Zurich Financial Services, or ZFS, will be owned by two holding companies. One, Allied Zurich, will be listed on the London Stock Exchange, while Zurich Allied, controlling 57 per cent, will be based in Zurich.

ZFS expects rising demand for pensions and other long-term savings plans and thinks it should act now to make its name in European markets.

The remaining tobacco businesses of BAT Industries will trade as British American Tobacco on the London Stock Exchange and will be the world's third-biggest tobacco group.

Both London-quoted companies are expected to join the FTSE 100 index.

Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, currently in a division of BAT known as British American Financial Services, will be part of the Swiss-based group.

Threadneedle Asset Management, BAT's fund management arm, will be merged with the US-based Scudder Kemper business of Zurich.

Zurich Group is expected to restructure its asset management operations after the merger and will use London as a platform for expansion.

Zurich Re London is being sold to managers backed by Candover, a buyout specialist.

The merger received the go-ahead last week when a High Court judge cleared BAT's plan to split tobacco and financial services. US medical insurers had argued that they might lose out if the new smaller tobacco company could not pay for treating sick smokers if it lost any legal action.

The combined group will now manage assets of $375 billion (£225 billion).



KPMG's new advertising campaign will concentrate on the benefits of clarity in an age of tangled technology

KPMG launches $60m campaign

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

KPMG, the accountancy group, is to launch a $60 million (£38 million) international advertising campaign in an effort to change its image and build up its advisory business after it failed to merge with rival Ernst & Young.

The campaign will feature the slogan "KPMG — It's time for clarity". Advertisements will be shown on specialist television channels such as CNN International, BBC World and Star TV as well as in international magazines and on posters at airports.

The slogan is claimed to respond to surveys which showed that top business customers were snowed under with information and wanted clear, practical "single sheet" advice. But it could also apply to KPMG itself.

The group's perceived lack of a coherent international structure was one of the reasons given for E&Y pulling out of a merger. The campaign, which will be supported by national advertising on the same theme for everything from recruitment to new services, will "emphasise the global integration of KPMG as one firm".

Vickers to consider site closure

Vickers is understood to be considering over the next three weeks whether to close one of its two tank factories, unless it receives more orders.

The group employs about 600 people in Newcastle and 500 in Leeds, which is seen as more vulnerable.

Both factories are involved in production of the Challenger 2 tank.

Liffe looks at links

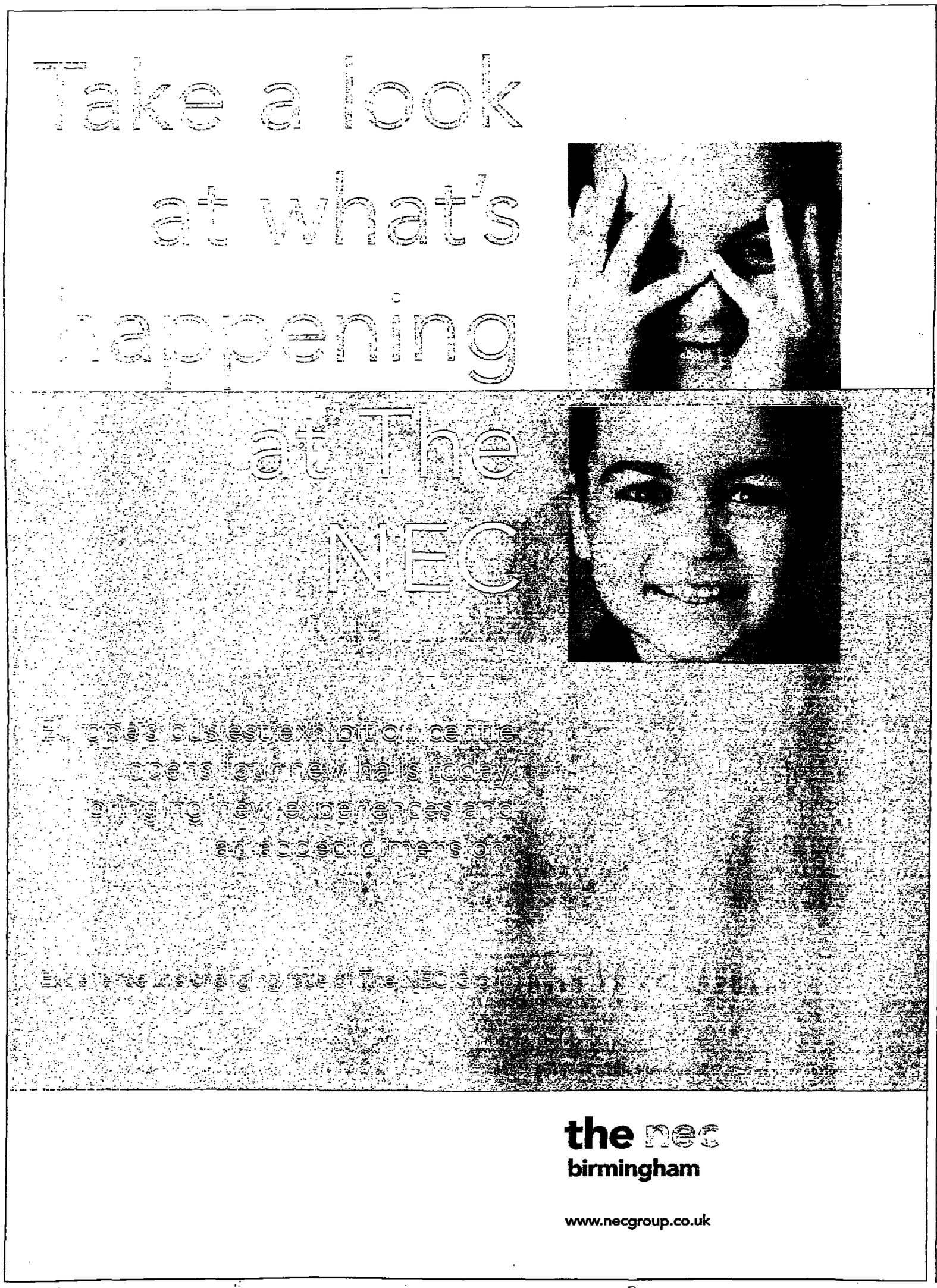
Brian Williamson, the new chairman of Liffe, is still considering possible links with other exchanges, including the London Stock Exchange, the derivatives exchange said yesterday.

Smiths in talks

Smiths Industries is negotiating the purchase of Biochem International, a US maker of non-invasive monitoring equipment, for $83 million (£50 million).

IBM software

In our story on CWC's £1.8 billion outsourcing deal with IBM on September 3, we overstated the fall in the latter's software division. In 1997, worldwide revenue from IBM software fell by 1.6 per cent. For the most recent quarter, to June this year, software revenue rose by 5 per cent.



Foresight and the case for lower rates

So far it has been easy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets this week in the most difficult circumstances since its inception. Although some commentators (including this one) opposed the last rate rise and have openly argued the case for lower rates, until recently this has seemed a forlorn hope. But now the argument for rate reductions looks much stronger. Will the MPC oblige?

It is widely believed that as the slowdown in manufacturing spreads throughout the economy, lower interest rates will be inevitable. Yet this does not come to grips with the fundamental economics.

There is a view in the Bank that the economy may be operating well below the level of unemployment at which inflation accelerates (known to the cognoscenti as the NAIRU). Accordingly, even if the economy slows decisively, the level of economic activity may still be too high and the level of unemployment too low. In this case it may take a "considerable period of below-trend growth" — code for recession — to bring the economy back to where the Bank thinks it should be to ensure that the inflation target is met.



While this view prevails, the mere emergence of economic slowdown will not be enough to persuade the Bank to reduce rates.

This approach would be all very well if we had a clear idea of what the critical level of unemployment (the NAIRU) is. But we don't. There is also the not inconsiderable difficulty of forecasting the likely course of aggregate demand. The Bank's inflation reports make it seem as though this is a mere technical difficulty, aptly captured in the probability ranges in which the Bank's views are cast — known in the City as the "rivers of blood" charts, after the many shades of red shown cascading across the page into the future.

According to this approach, there is an X per cent probability of inflation being Y per cent in two years' time, and a whole range of probabilities attached to other possible outcomes. And these probabilities are not only knowable in principle but are actually known to the Bank. Funny that. In 1929, what was the probability of the Great Depression? Was it a 10 per cent chance in two years' time but a 20 per cent chance in three years' time, or vice versa? If only we had had the Bank's *Inflation Report* at the time to tell us.

This need to predict the future arises, of course, from the desire to influence it. Because of the lags between changes in interest rates and the effects on inflation, interest rate changes have to be pre-emptive.

It is no use waiting until the dreaded event is upon you. By that stage it is too late. This has been the justification for the repeated increases in interest rates over the past year.

But will the MPC be just as forward-looking now? Somehow, I doubt it. Most members of the MPC were scarred by the experiences of the 1970s. The lessons learned then, and again in the late 1980s, have been burned into them: inflation is an ever-present danger; beware reacting to pressures for lower rates from the exchange market or the stock market; inflation will come back and hit you in the end.

These are people who will take a lot of persuading that inflation is set to fall, never mind accepting that the really big danger is not a resurgence of inflation but the reappearance of deflation for the first time since the 1930s. Accordingly, despite the rhetoric about being forward-looking and pre-emptive, when it comes to cutting rates, they are likely to be slow and reactive.

This argument is even stronger when applied to the ECB, still trying to coat the euro with Teutonic anti-inflationary credibility when Europe is already hovering on the brink of falling prices.

What should the Bank do now? On the one side there are the internal inflation forecasts, complete with probability ranges. On the other, amid the solid evidence of substantial economic slowdown domestically and the alarming danger signs of global financial and economic crisis, there is the chance that these are way off beam.

I know where I would put my money. I would vote for an immediate reduction in interest rates. This does not mean, though, that this is what I think the MPC will do. In my view, the money markets are currently over-estimating the scope for interest rates to fall in the near term.

By contrast, they are underestimating the scope for them to fall in the medium term. Once it has become abundantly clear that the inflation danger is nugatory, quite apart from the economic imperatives, there will be powerful political pressures on the MPC to cut interest rates substantially.

Central bank independence is all the rage now primarily because it is widely believed that politicians manage monetary policy badly. Specifically, they are prone to increase interest rates only reluctantly, which imparts an inflationary bias. That was the lesson of the 1960s and 1970s.

But there is another sort of bias, the one which made political control of interest rates once respectable and which underpinned the nationalisation of the Bank of England in 1946. Central bankers are inclined to be slow to reduce interest rates and are too readily in the thrall of conventional opinion in the financial markets.

That was the lesson of the 1920s and 1930s. It suggested a conclusion which, in the recent headlong rush for "credibility" at all costs, has been obscured — at times of real crisis monetary policy is too important to be left to central bankers.

صكذا من الأصل

CORPORATE PROFILE: *Billiton*

THE FACTS

June 1997 figures for Billiton showed turnover of \$5.3 billion, net income of \$537 million and net assets of \$3.9 billion. The company's activities include: bauxite mining and aluminium production; titanium mineral mining; nickel mining, coalmining; ferro-alloys and steel.

THE BOARD

Brian Gilbertson, aged 54, is chairman and chief executive. He is also a director of Engen and the South African Reserve Bank.

Michael Davis, 40, is chief financial officer. He joined Gencor in 1994 from Eskom, the South African electricity group, of which he was executive director.

Steven Kesler, 47, is director in charge of base metals and new business. He joined Billiton in October 1997. He was formerly chief executive of Pacific Nickel in the Philippines and before that was with Rossing Uranium in Namibia and with Escondida in Chile.

David Munro, 43, is director in charge of aluminium and marketing and trading. He joined Gencor in 1981 and was appointed managing director of Billiton in 1994.

Miklos Salamon, 43, is director in charge of steel and ferro-alloys, nickel and titanium minerals. He is also chairman of Samancor and was previously managing director of Ingwe Coal.

There are six non-executive directors:

David Brink, 59, is also executive chairman of Murray & Roberts, chairman of Unitrans and deputy chairman of ABSA Bank.

Cornelius Herkströter, 60, was chairman of the committee of managing directors of Royal/Dutch Shell. Mr Herkströter was previously a director of Billiton, before its acquisition by the Shell group.

John Jackson, 69, is chairman of Ladbroke, Celltech and Xenova and is also a director of WPP.

Derek Keys, 67, was a Gencor director from 1994 to 1997 after being South Africa's finance minister.

Lord Renwick of Clifton, 60, a former British ambassador, is a director of Robert Fleming, British Airways, Canal Plus and Liberty International and is chairman of Fluor Daniel.

Matthys Visser, 44, is on the board of Rembrandt Group, Malbak and Rothmans International.

Brian Gilbertson has called the market absolutely right, but foresight has won the South African chairman of Billiton few friends in London. Having raised a huge bundle of money a year ago by selling shares, Billiton has been watching and waiting while commodity prices collapsed. Mr Gilbertson now thinks metals have reached their low ebb and is in the mood to invest.

An ability to sell high and buy low would normally warrant superstar status, but the City's fund managers are, frankly, irritated. Many bought shares at 220p when Billiton floated on the London stock market a year ago, only to see them decline to a low point of 103p last week.

Not only have the sheep-like fund managers been reminded that they failed to spot a market peaking but they have had their noses rubbed in it, watching Mr Gilbertson and his colleagues sit on the cash. Billiton's bosses, although smarting from criticism, are unrepentant.

Part of the problem has been South African funds, recently liberated from foreign investment restrictions, swapping their Billiton stock for US and European shares. A botched placing in May by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson of a stake held by Sanlam, the South African insurer, did not help. Kleinwort ended up with some 50 million shares, acquired at 158p. Recent rumours suggest that they have finally sold the stake, crystallising a large loss.

The share issue in July last year yielded £1 billion and Billiton raised another billion in a loan facility.

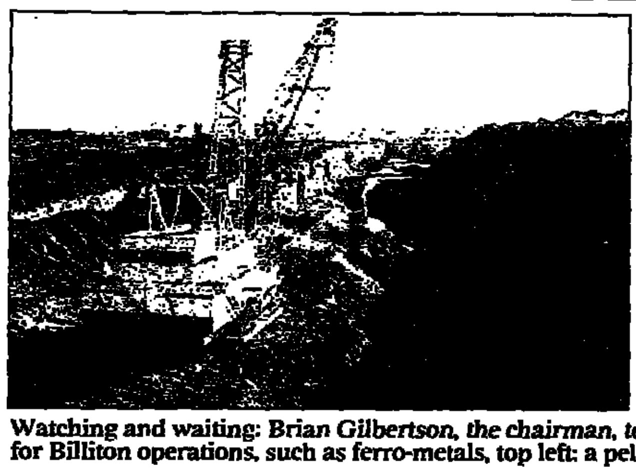
Mr Gilbertson insists that the company examines every opportunity. "We have an M&A team which comes to the board with ideas. We have said no, not just yet, to every proposal and each time we were right," he says.

The mood was a touch nervous at Billiton's Trafalgar Square headquarters last week in preparation for today's annual results announcement. The profits will be uncontentious: the company has steered the market towards a figure of about \$475 million (£280 million). However, investors will be looking hard for news about strategy, acquisitions and a promised share buyback.

Billiton has so far received a chilly reception in London; it was inept in handling investor and press relations at the time









Watching and waiting: Brian Gilbertson, the chairman, top right, is now in the mood to invest, while investors await news about a fresh strategy for Billiton operations, such as ferro-metals, top left: a pelletising plant in South Africa, bottom right: and one of Ingwe's South African collieries

of the flotation and seems bemused by the level of disclosure expected of it. Integrity Works, the consultancy, reckons that the company lacks a succinct statement of business principles. The company responds that is has not had time.

This contrasts with its reputation back in South Africa where the management have star status. Mr Gilbertson is an establishment figure who boasts a seat on the board of South Africa's Reserve Bank and last week resigned from the board of Gencor, the gold mining group from which Billiton was demerged more than a year ago.

The creation of Billiton is an extraordinary tale and does much to justify Mr Gilbertson's reputation, both here and at home. He took over the reins at Gencor in 1992; it was then a stodgy South African conglomerate with interests in oil and paper as well as gold, platinum and coal mining. His strategy was to unbundle the various interests, ending up with a focused mining group but stuck in a troubled South Africa.

The big opportunity came when Shell decided to sell its mining and metals arm, Billiton. The oil company, too, was refocusing on its core business and the metals operation was chalking up losses. Russian smelters were dumping aluminium and the price was in freefall. Mr Gilbertson reckoned that it had fallen far enough, but Billiton was still a big mouthful, \$2 billion of assets, and Gencor had just \$300 million offshore to play with. Banks were reluctant to touch Billiton, which was made up of a collection of stakes in joint ventures, so Gilbertson persuaded Shell to subscribe to a \$300 million bond issue: the seller financed the buyer.

No sooner was the deal signed and sealed than the aluminium producing countries agreed to cut output. The aluminium price soared and Gencor quickly paid back Shell.

For a South African management, a London listing was seen as a seat on a larger stage, but, since the share issue, investors wonder whether Billiton has really severed its link with Johannesburg. Investments have been focused on Southern Africa: the \$3 billion Mozal project to build a new aluminium smelter in Mozambique; and a \$289 million bid for the outstanding minority share in Ingwe Coal.

The criticism is probably unfair; Mr Gilbertson is at heart an opportunist and the rationale for the Ingwe bid is largely price and the rapidly depreciating South African rand which is turning a number of Johannesburg-quoted companies into easy bid targets.

Liberty Life, the South African institution, originally baulked at accepting the 25 rand-per-share offer, which also reflected the hugely depressed world price for steam coal. However, Liberty is believed to have given up its lone protest and the takeover should go through smoothly.

That strategy could be exploited further. Prior to its flotation Billiton merged its nickel interests with QNI, the Australian mining company, leaving Billiton with 55 per cent. The fall in the Australian dollar makes the minority a smaller and potentially interesting mouthful. Australia has rules on foreign ownership, but Mr Gilbertson points out that Billiton has been in Australia for some time.

What the market wants to hear is news of a big sexy deal at the bottom of the market that will mop up a couple of billion dollars of spare cash and deliver super earnings growth as metal prices recover. In effect, they want Mr Gilbertson to repeat the original Billiton deal.

If it isn't happening, it is not for want of trying. Billiton's chief rival, Rio Tinto is also scouring the market as its share price tumbles but has so far failed to find a home for its free cashflow. Billiton's focus has been privatisations, a potentially rich seam given that they imply a keen seller of assets that are probably overmanned and poorly managed. Russell Skirrow, of Merrill Lynch, reckons that tumbling financial markets could still bring opportunities. Privatisations have been the preferred route, but the more risky path that they may now wish to try is the hostile bid.

Billiton's bosses are unlikely to shy away from battle. What they may lack in social skills in dealing with snooty City institutions, they more than make up in entrepreneurial zeal.

The chairman and the finance director are widely known among the analytical fraternity as the top and bottom half of a tyrannosaurus rex. Mick Davis, the financial supremo, is generally thought to be the bottom half, having the greater girth. Together, they make the ultimate predator, said one Billiton watcher.

CARL MORTISHED

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The market has not taken to the company, people have not warmed to them. There are worries that they are going to fall out of the FTSE 100. The share buy-back and buy-in of the minority stakes is a good idea, but the question is when are they going to spend the money."
David Bird, ABN Amro

"We think it is one of the cheapest quality mining stocks in the world. Metal prices are now going in the right direction. It would have been easy after the issue to spend all the money, but it would have been wrong to do so."
Nick Hatch, Robert Fleming

"People normally buy [the shares] for growth, for capital gain, but they are now so cheap they are almost yield stocks. We like the long-term outlook and at this price you can almost cover your costs with the dividend."
Russell Skirrow, Merrill Lynch

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	4/10
Fat cat quotient[2]	5/10
Financial record	5/10
Share performance	1/10
Attitude to employees	7/10
Strength of brand	5/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	4/10
City star rating	5/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	53/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting

America's DLJ to open UK retail broking arm

DONALDSON, Lufkin & Jenrette, the US investment bank, is building a retail broking operation in Britain and intends to have \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) under management by the end of the year (Richard Miles writes).

Thomas Dicker, managing director of DLJ International's investment services group, has already recruited more than 50 staff for the operation, including 23 consultants who will concentrate on providing advice to wealthy individuals.

Mr Dicker aims to imitate the success of DLJ's retail operation in America, where investors with capital of \$5 million or above are given a personal service, while the mass market is served by DLJ Direct, a telephone and Internet operation.

The UK operation will also package and market insurance and fund management products from Axa, the French insurer which is DLJ's ultimate parent through its holding in Equitable, the US insurer.

Scotia warning on breast-pain drug

By Paul Durman

A DRUG taken by women to alleviate breast pain has been shown to be no better than a placebo in the most recent trial by Scotia Holdings, the drug development company.

Scotia warned the UK's Medicines Control Agency (MCA) of its findings about Efamast last month. Searle, the US-owned pharmaceuticals company that markets the drug in the UK, is conducting a full analysis of the trial to see whether they show the drug to be ineffective.

Efamast was one of the first of the fat-based pharmaceuticals that were intended to provide the foundations for Scotia's growth. However, Scotia has found it difficult to convince regulators that it has demonstrated the medical effectiveness of its products.

Scotia shares have lost more than two thirds of their value since Tarabetic, a treatment for neuropathy, was turned down by the MCA last year.

The troubling results on Efamast come from an intended 500-patient trial that was begun in 1994 in the hope of securing licences to market the drug outside the UK.

Rob Dow, Scotia's chief executive, said the poorly conducted study produced the confusing result that patients taking the placebo control responded as well as those who received the active compound of Efamast. He said: "The placebo response goes well beyond that seen in other studies."

Scotia has still to come up with an explanation. One possibility is that women sufferers experienced a psychological benefit that was unconnected with any drug effect of Efamast.

Dr Dow took advice from Scotia's lawyers and financial advisers to see whether the problems with Efamast were price-sensitive and should be released to the market. Scotia took the view that an announcement would have created "inappropriate uncertainty" because it was not able to explain its findings.

Dr Dow pointed out that three earlier studies had shown Efamast to work.

Hillsdown poised to give details of split

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the troubled food group, is expected to use publication of interim results tomorrow as a chance to confirm that it intends to split itself into three quoted companies and sell assets so as to return cash to shareholders (Robert Cole writes).

The plan, outlined in the spring, was formed to increase shareholder value. It was put back on track after a £1.6 billion takeover attempt by Unigate, the dairy group, fell through this summer.

The concrete plans will include float dates for Terranova, the name being given to Hillsdown's cherished chilled foods side, and Fairview Homes, the housebuilder. They should be ready for floating in the second week of October. Little is expected to be said about Hillsdown's success in selling unwanted subsidiary companies.

Detailed demerger proposals may deflect attention from interim pre-tax profits expected to fall from £56 million last time to between £52 million and £54 million.

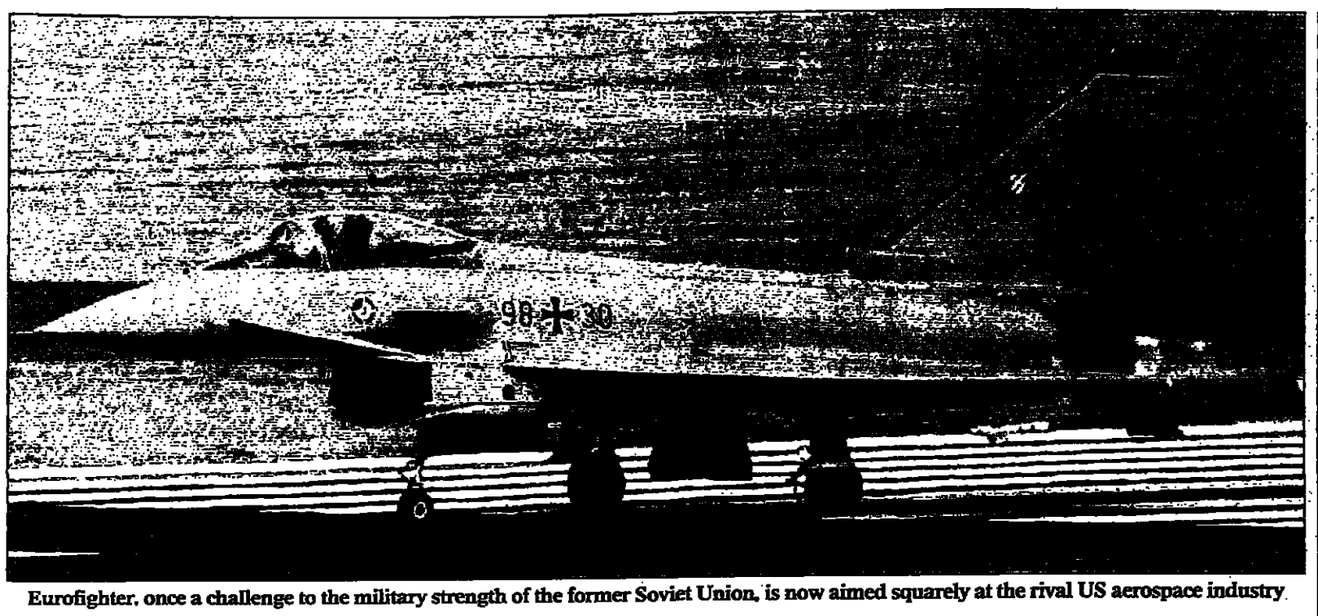
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
191	74½	16.20	AFA Systems	128½	...	...	
133½	96	13.60	AMCO Corp	97½	– 1	9.2	7.1
157½	142½	9.24	ATA Group	142½	– 5	1.8	11.1
271	180	30.20	Access Plus	180	– 15	3.2	17.3
342½	225	38.20	A de Gruchy	250		4.3	14.7
67½	47½	6.46	AdVal Group	49	– 5	...	13.0
7¼	3¼	3.34	African Gold	3¼			18.3
96½	36½	27.90	Albemarle & Bd	73½	+ 1	0.9	24.3
43½	30	10.70	Alizyme	30	– 2½	...	...
102½	64½	13.30	Ambient Media	68½	– ½	...	...
325	132½	11.00	Ambishus Pub Co	132½	– 17½	...	...
108¼	98½	36.70	Anglo Sibrn Oil	101	– 1½	...	...
119	72½	2.74	Anglo-Welsh	88½	– 9	4.2	7.0
117½	74½	72.60	Antonov	93½	– 2½	...	...
110½	92½	18.80	Aortech	92½	– 5	...	...
100	80	4.16	Aram Resources	80	– 5	6.6	...
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65		...	...
485	236¾	69.60	Ask Central	307½		0.4	36.3
72½	54½	0.98	Athelney Trust	54½	– 3	2.5	46.5
24¼	10¼	11.00	Atlantic Caspian	10¼	– 1	...	...
68½	11½	8.74	Avalon Oil	11½	– 3½	...	...
193	124	49.80	BATM Adv Comms	160	– 13	1.9	...
238½	166½	32.70	BCO Technologies	182½	+ 1	...	...
317½	175	27.30	BGR	175	– 7½	2.1	19.9
12½	4	1.81	BKG Res	4½		...	...
3¾	1	0.73	Bakery Services	1	– ¾	...	...
109½	47½	12.30	Barbican Health	63½	– 4	...	...
10	6½	16.20	Barrasford	6¾	...	4.2	9.0
2	1½	2.83	Beachcroft	1½		8.5	...
2¼	1	1.94	Beaufort	1	– ¼	...	...
44	26½	4.36	Bickerton	28½	– 3	2.2	37.1
117½	67½	1.40	Billam	87½	– 7½	7.6	23.6
53½	39½	3.52	Bilston Batrsea	39½	– 3	2.4	...
1½	1	5.66	Birchin Intl	1	...	...	...
0¾	0¾	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¾		...	...
44½	30½	15.80	Birmingham City	31½	– 1½	...	2.8
67½	17½	1.75	Blakes Cloth	17½	– 5	7.1	22.1
156½	68	12.40	Bond Intl Soft	91	– 6½	3.0	13.5
325	235	2.21	Bowness Leis	315		...	...
37½	14½	2.81	Brancote Hldgs	14¼	– 1	...	...
105	65	2.73	Br Bloodstock	65	– 2½	4.8	7.3
25½	14½	1.77	Buckland Invs	14½	– 1½	...	...
12	9	0.08	Buckland Inv Wts	10½	– 1½	...	...
262	150	18.10	CA Coutts Hldgs	152½	– 9½	3.0	12.0
170	80	5.76	C & B Publishing	80	– 20	...	22.7
109½	109½	0.09	CCI Founder Shs	109½		2.9	...
185½	111½	1.56	CCI Hldgs	130	– 5	2.4	...
11½	9	13.20	CCM Distribution	8		...	...
235	148	7.40	Cafe Inns	148	– 7	2.8	9.6
60	40	4.92	Caledonian Tst	40	– 5	...	5.4
19	6½	1.87	Cambridge Min Res	6½	– ½	...	...
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼	...	...	...
0¾	0¾	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾		...	...
87½	40½	76.80	Card Clear	57	+ 3½	0.6	25.1
54½	42½	4.29	Carisbrooke Ship	42½		2.8	13.7
55	36	1.98	Cassidy Bros	36	– 1	10.4	...
79½	49½	3.06	Cavendish W	69½	...	3.2	28.7
13	8½	5.37	Celebrated Group	8¾	– 1	...	...
£345	£185	61.50	Celtic	£205	+500	...	9.1
£325	£155	30.50	Celtic Pf Shs	£165	...	2.2	...
105½	71½	22.90	CI Comms(TV)	104½		3.7	16.3
86½	47½	15.30	Charlton Athl	54	– 1	3.0	13.0
14¼	8¼	11.00	Charterhouse Cms	11	+ 1¼	...	...
115	69½	112.00	Chelsea Village	71½	– 3½	...	...
29	13¾	89.50	Chorion	17½	+ 2½	...	...
122½	100½	40.10	Citadel	121	+ ½	0.5	...
82	40½	8.47	City Gourmets	40½	– 2	...	...
113	85	0.99	Clan Homes	110		...	...
28½	15	14.80	Coffee Rep	15½	– 1	1.7	15.0
317½	117½	24.20	Commino	185	– 10	1.0	20.9
369	142½	19.30	Computerland UK	210	+ 2½	1.8	18.2
19½	12½	9.87	Concurrent Tech	14	+ ¼	6.2	10.1
46½	36	9.00	Consider Tst	40	– 1	...	20.0
3¾	1¼	3.12	Corporate Exec	2	– ¼	...	...
15½	13½	5.99	Creos Intl	14	...	...	35.0
153½	126½	6.56	Cresco Intl	128½	...	10.6	67.1
230	147½	2.36	Crown Eye	147½		...	...
31½	19½	1.22	Darbarth Inns	25½	– 2	2.4	9.7
237½	210	10.40	Dawn Til Dusk	217½	– 15	...	48.2
400	198½	20.80	Deep Sea Leisure	330	– 15		

1998 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
6¼	2¾	4.52	Dentmaster	3½	– ¼	3.2	14.0
495	105	51.30	Desire Petroleum	108½	– 19		
79½	52	7.86	Digital Animation	53½	...	...	...
32½	17½	16.00	Dimension Res	25½	+ ½	...	...
18½	3½		Dimension Wts	16½	– 1	...	...
27½	16½	2.18	Dixkie Heel	17	– 1	12.2	6.1
135½	87½	7.74	Delyn Group	89	– 6½	2.4	...
45	16½	5.64	Dmaak	30	– 2	...	
406	225	15.80	Dobbies Garden	240	– 30	2.4	14.5
30	20½	2.87	Downtex	20½	– 2	2.4	9.9
263½	160½	21.30	Dragons Health	177½	– 7½	1.1	24.0
3¾	2	1.71	Driggs of Bath	2		...	12.9
295	217½	7.28	Durlacher	260	– 7½	...	51.8
39½	34½	3.87	Eagle	39½	...	...	...
210½	73½	27.20	Easynet	132½	+ 2½	...	...
330	160	44.50	Elec Retail Sys	210	+ 10		
103	77	21.80	Enterprises	80	– 5	7.1	5.8
21½	11½	3.50	Epic Multimedia	15	...		...
45	45	14.10	Epicore Netwks	45	...	...	...
95	27½	1.02	Eurasia Mining	27½	– 8	...	...
387½	165	22.80	Euro Sales Fin	247½	– 10	...	17.6
3¾	2½	3.69	Fairplace Cons	3	...	1.5	25.4
335	200	6.24	Fairtake	240		1.0	13.4
82½	52½	12.80	Fayrewood	61	– 1½	2.7	...
523½	110½	127.30	Fibernet	326½	– 24	...	...
103½	20½	3.92	Fielders	78½	+ 4½	...	...
117½	84½	19.10	Firestone Dmds	84½	– 3	...	...
413½	223½	91.30	Fitness First	261½	– 37	...	43.5
140	95	3.64	Flomerics	140		2.7	23.2
100	32½	1.07	Floral St	33½		...	...
22½	22½	4.72	FNR Hldgs	22½		...	...
102½	71½	7.74	Formscan	73	– 3	4.7	8.4
188½	107½	11.00	Fountain Forestry	122½	– 8	2.8	17.4
205½	158½	10.50	Furlong Homes	158½	– 6½	4.3	6.5
99½	28½	3.50	Future Int Telep	31½	...	...	...
301½	176½	18.80	GB Railways	213½	– 24	2.9	8.3
47½	37½	4.95	GR Hldgs	37½	...		24.3
179½	105	82.70	Gartland W&B	106½	– 5	4.7	8.9
26¼	13	17.80	Gold Mns Sard	13	– ¾	...	
17¼	5	2.68	Gold Mns Sard Wts	5	– 1	...	...
70	15	13.80	Golf Club	29	– 3	...	5.7
171¼	128½	21.70	Gooch & Housego	128½	– 3	1.4	20.0
23	12	2.97	Griffin Mining	14	+ 1	...	...
4¼	2½	0.04	Griffin Mng Wts	3½	...	...	...
2¾	2	2.00	Grosmont Hldgs	2	...	...	13.9
1¼	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
15	9½	2.35	Grosvenor Ltd	9¾	...	...	31.1
175	160	36.40	Guiton	161	– 5	4.0	12.8
6¼	3¼	1.34	Hancorn	3½	+ ¼	...	7.8
255	142	21.70	Hardy Underw	236	– 4	3.5	10.4
3¾	2¾	3.94	Harford	2¾	...	...	
40	32	7.69	Hacas Group	33	– 4	...	...
89½	44½	3.26	Hat Pin	72½	– 2	1.7	...
405	325	8.51	Headline	405	...	2.5	19.8
285	275	12.00	Heavitree A	285		3.5	14.0
97½	55½	4.16	Helicon Pubg	70½	– 2	...	...
415	275	23.40	Hercules Prop	350	– 15	0.9	16.2
145	77½	16.00	Highams Sys	90	– 5	1.4	16.9
135½	92½	8.14	Highland Timber	92½	– 12	...	...
80	60	1.02	Hortiogram	64	– 4	2.0	37.8
97½	60½	4.05	Hydro-Dynamic	60½	– 2	8.4	12.4
93½	42½	10.10	IES	43	– 4½	2.3	...
390	145½	13.70	I S Solutions	285	– 10	0.3	38.4
627½	137½	82.50	Indpt Energy	317½	– 37½	...	
86½	61½	11.20	Indpt Radio	62½	– 1		...
332½	132½	33.10	Interbank Intl	132½	– 15	...	...
98½	82½	17.40	Inner Workings	82½	– 12	...	...
125	32½	1.31	Integrd As Mgt	50½	– 2	...	...
77	24	16.50	Intelligent Env	53½	– 7	...	...
406	330	22.10	Inter-Alliance	401	– 1½		...
140	125	25.40	Interior Servs	126	– 4	3.1	13.3
119½	97½	4.66	Inter Link Foods	99½	– 6	2.5	14.3
7	4	10.90	Int Tool & Sup	4½	...	...	...
189½	37½	42.70	Internet Tech	101½	+ 3	...	...
647½	372½	89.00	Intl Greetings	500	– 27½	2.1	14.8
172½	52½	16.80	IOC Intl	53½	– 1	...	...
320	138¼	13.80	ITG Group	275	– 10	...	31.1
255	190	18.00	JSB Software Tech	190	– 5	...	...
97½	75½	15.20	James R Knowles	76½	– 2	4.2	...
49½	37½	3.30	Jardinene Ints	37½	– 6½	...	...

1998 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
416	320	23.90	Jennings Bros	322½	– 10	3.0	23.2
4	2	3.11	J Lewis Hlord	2¼	– ½	6.0	9.7
62½	44½	9.36	Jordec	45	– 2½	...	10.5
46½	17½	5.42	Jumbo Intl	27½	– 2	...	...
3	1	4.53	Just Group	1	– ¼		...
319½	105½	112.80	KS Biomedix	250	– 1½	...	...
42½	32½	3.74	Kern River	32½		...	
55½	19½	2.18	Keystone Soft	19½	– 1	...	...
25½	8½		Keystone Wts	8½	– 1	...	
193½	158½	16.50	Kingfisher Ls	170	– 3½	1.5	
260	122½	11.20	Lady in Leisure	190	...	2.0	20.0
260	122½	8.32	Landround	185	– 10	2.6	16.5
427½	385	26.90	Lawrence	385	– 2½	2.9	13.7
4950	3750	94.00	Lawrie Group	4950		2.0	7.3
90¼	37½	3.98	Lepco	37½	...	...	
495	305	6.10	Loades	305		0.5	...
31½	12½	5.20	Loftus Road	13	– ½	...	
125	87	5.98	London Town	115	...	2.4	8.3
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45		...	
191½	127½	4.90	Longbridge Intl	148½	– 8	4.2	13.9
144½	93½	3.37	Longmead	93½	– 8	6.7	6.3
27½	22½	5.22	Loox	22½			
2	1	1.75	Lotteryking	1	...		14.2
1	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
36½	20½	3.23	MMS Petroleum	26½	+ 4	...	...
1½	0¼	12.50	MV Sports	0¼		...	...
23¾	5½	10.40	Magnum Power	11	– ¾	...	...
517½	357½	49.30	Majestic Wine	357½	– 20	1.7	21.0
9½	4¾	3.56	Manx & O'seas	4¾	– ¼		28.8
55½	37½	5.55	Market Link Pb	37½		1.0	10.1
115	73	1.70	Matrix Hlthcare	74	– 1	10.1	...
13¾	11¼	4.36	Mears Group	11¾	– ½	3.4	9.5
38½	20½	46.80	Medisys	28	– 3½		
65½	19½	16.40	Megalomedia	22½	...	1.4	...
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	+ 1	...	...
38	18½	23.60	Memory Corp	21	...		
73½	57½	59.00	Metalrussia	59	...	...	6.7
65½	41½	3.57	Methven's	41½	– 2	...	...
112½	109½	14.30	Metnor Group	112½		4.0	
115	85	3.83	Metrodome	85		...	...
191½	45½	43.70	Minorplanet	90	– 6½	...	...
85½	50½	3.08	Mondas	50½	– 10	...	...
380	220	25.70	Moneypay	220	– 10	2.8	21.2
124	60	4.75	Mountcashel	62½	– 2½	...	0.5
70½	34½	7.45	Mulberry Group	36	– 5	5.3	...
3¾	2	2.18	MultiMedia	3½	– ¼	...	...
13¼	9¼	9.75	Murray Fin Corp	9¾	...		...
15¼	9	0.67	NECA	9	– 1	6.9	...
67½	47½	19.10	NMT	48½	– 3	...	
78½	52½	4.54	NRP	60½	...	...	
375	184½	26.00	Nsb Retail Sys	236½	– 9	0.3	27.6
225	145	11.50	NWF Grp	145	– 5	7.2	7.3
195	155	11.20	Nash (Wm)	160	...	6.2	6.2
260	260	9.10	Neill Clerk	260		1.8	...
78½	50½	9.32	Netcall	51½	– 3½		...
80	80	1.52	Northomes	80			24.8
25	3½	0.69	Nifra Pelfim	3¼	– ¼		...
80½	48½	4.25	Northstar Sec	67½	– 5	...	...
55½	23	0.75	Northstar Sec Wts	37½	– 5	...	...
36½	14½	0.51	On Line	15½	– 2	...	...
227½	112	9.87	Optoplast	113½	– 6½	3.4	8.0
21	10¾	13.50	Oxford Biomedica	11½	– 1	...	...
1½	0½	7.70	Pacific Media	0½		...	...
39½	7½	5.20	Pan Andean Res	11	+ 3	...	...
32½	28½	4.02	Parallel Picts	28½	...		...
245	235	5.64	Park Ests(Liv)	235	...	5.5	15.7
150½	77	7.53	Peel Hotels	150½	+ 18	...	...
21	9	4.64	Pembertons	9½	+ ¼	...	...
183½	127½	9.01	Pennant Intl	136½	– 2	...	17.2
44½	35½	6.43	Personal No Co	41½	– 2	...	...
155	85½	36.00	Petra Diamonds	107½	+ 4	...	...
122	80	1.40	Petra Dmnds Wt	84	...		...
30½	12½	9.11	Philippine Gd	13½		...	...
62½	37½	8.89	Pilat Tech	37½	– 2½	4.0	12.4
210½	162½	28.30	Policy Master Grp	200	+ 1		43.8
151½	106½	22.50	Polymasc Pharms	112½	– 2½	...	...
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	...
1	0¼	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¼	...	...	...
16	12¼	11.60	Premier Asset Mgt	13½	– ¼	...	...
182½	167½		Premier Direct Grp	167½	– 5	...	...

1998 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
7	3½	137.10	Presbury Group	4	...	1.0	58.2
445	390	8.40	Preston Nth E	400		...	...
98	85½	13.70	Primary Hlth Pr	85½	– 2	6.6	18.8
66½	62½	0.79	Private & Comm	64		1.2	2.5
46½	19½	15.20	Proteome Scies	19½	– 4		...
55	45	2.04	Pubs n Bars	55		...	...
107½	67½	10.50	Pycraft & Arnold	67½	– 2½	3.2	11.8
118½	76½	14.90	Q Group	89	+ 4	0.7	14.2
847½	445	147.70	Ramco Egy	487½	– 6	...	...
10¼	6½	10.30	Range Cooker	6½	...	1.9	...
137½	77½	16.80	Raphael Zm	112½	– 13	2.8	14.8
87½	25½	4.13	Recycling Servs	25½	...	2.5	44.0
19½	3	1.19	Reflec	4		...	
7	4¾	5.18	Revelation Plc	4¾	– ¼	7.9	5.0
20½	9	6.36	Riceman Insce	9½	– 1½	...	
111½	93½	4.86	Romtec	93½	– 8	2.1	
357½	175	17.80	SBS	202½	– 20	1.5	20.4
152½	65	8.26	SCI Ent	65	...		...
14½	4½	1.24	SEA Multimedia	5	...	...	...
110	65	14.60	Safestore	65	– 4		
132½	112½	6.66	Savoy Asset Mgt	130½		3.9	14.2
243½	165½	30.30	Science Sys	178½	– 8	1.0	26.4
11½	7½	1.22	Scotswood Inds	11½			...
3	1	2.54	Screen	1			...
42½	2½	0.49	Selector	2½		...	...
190½	153½	12.80	Shalfbone	158½	...	3.5	10.0
87½	65½	3.47	Shelton (M)	65½	– 2	8.1	7.5
47½	7	52.00	Sibir Energy	7¾	+ ¾	...	...
4½	2½	7.93	Sira Bus Serv	3½	– ¼	2.5	12.6
1½	0¼	0.19	Sira Bus Wts	1	...		...
65½	37½	15.20	Sodra Petroleum	37½			
72½	35½	2.36	Solid State Sp	37½		3.3	31.0
265	190½	9.20	Solitaire	200		3.8	18.2
28½	14½	2.42	Soundtracs	24		2.1	
3½	2	4.01	South Beach Con	2¼		...	...
847	705	171.30	Southern News	705	– 48½	3.7	13.8
94½	75½	14.90	Southern Vectis	75½	– 5	3.8	10.8
99½	77½	23.90	Sports & Out Media	77½	– 5		29.5
147½	127½	8.05	Springboard Vent	147½	...		...
950	312½	49.50	Staffware	390	+ 47½	0.6	36.2
157½	60	14.10	Stanford Rook	71	– ½	...	...
196½	66½	7.78	Stentor	66½	– 22		
71½	5½		Stentor Warrants	9½	– ½	...	...
109½	90½	4.96	Supafule	90½	...	...	
155	137	15.20	Sutton Harbour	152	...	3.0	21.5
9	4	0.54	Syst Integ Rsch	4		...	
85½	55½	19.30	Systems Intl	56½	– 1	...	...
5¾	5	7.60	Talisman House	5¼	...	...	...
2	2	0.08	Talisman Hse Wts	2	...	...	...
23	9	2.00	TDS Circuits	9½	– ¼	...	3.9
67½	20½	7.21	Theo Fennell	44½	– 1	...	22.5
5¾	5	9.00	Thomas Potts	5	– ¼	4.0	37.6
41½	22	2.27	Tom Hoskins	22	– ½	...	10.8
117½	69½	11.30	Total Office	70	...	9.3	9.7
145	107½	10.50	Touchstone Grp	107½	– 6	1.2	15.5
70	20	6.94	Tradepoint Fnl	24	– ½	...	
102½	70½	10.70	Tricorder Tech	70½	– 1	...	
160	140	5.95	Trinity Care	145		4.6	16.1
170	150	1.33	Trinity Care Pf	150	...	6.2	...
200	141¼	6.74	UA Group	192½		3.0	17.9
39½	38	3.59	Univent	39½	...	...	18.9
235	132½	15.20	VDC	145	+ 2¼	4.7	12.5
42½	8½	48.90	Victory Corp	15½	+ ½	...	...
160	85	2.66	Voss Net	95	...	...	...
85½	26½	14.20	WML	49½			
108	56	23.40	Waterfall	57	– 4½	5.3	10.9
5	3½	5.35	Weeks Group	3½	– ¼	3.7	9.7
87	60	3.12	West 175 Enter	60		...	...
£145	9500	9.12	West Bromwich	£125		...	...
13½	11½	5.11	Western Selectn	11½		2.7	37.1
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½		...	...
300	55	6.44	Westmount Engy	57½	– 18½	...	...
2½	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½		...	...
84½	55½	7.29	Winchester	56½	– 1		33.8
205	137	34.40	World Telecom	137	– 19½		
150	135	4.80	Wynnstay Props	150		4.4	14.9
13½	5½	11.10	Xavier Comp	11¼		...	...
88½	73½	5.59	Yeoman	73½		...	...
7	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3		...	...



Eurofighter, once a challenge to the military strength of the former Soviet Union, is now aimed squarely at the rival US aerospace industry

A transatlantic dogfight for market share in the making

Christine Buckley reports from the international air show at Farnborough on the new moves for consolidation taking off in the aerospace industry

This year's Farnborough international air show will be the last of its type. When the array of military and civil aircraft next take to the Hampshire skies two years hence the European aerospace industry is likely to be in a very different state. Consolidation may have then delivered what everyone believes is vital for survival — a network of pan-European aerospace and defence groups.

This year's show — the biggest yet with more than $10 billion (£6 billion) worth of orders expected to be unveiled — is already showing signs of the increasing co-operation and liaison among Europe's aircraft builders. On the ground British Aerospace will have its partnership village, highlighting the growing "togetherness" of companies that can no longer afford the luxury of direct competition. In the air, Airbus — the four-nation consortium — will show off its planes and boast that its orders are outstripping the once indomitable Boeing. Star of the air show will be the Eurofighter, another four-nation venture.

Europe has for some time realised it must overcome governmental barriers and national sensitivities in order to compete with the might of the US aerospace industry. US companies have already merged, streamlined and cut out the costs that Europe still carries. Now they are fighting for a share of the world market that will prove critical to corporate survival.

Industry experts estimate that as much as 20 per cent of Europe's aerospace capacity must go to make it efficient. That will entail thousands of job losses and require the political will of the countries involved.

Quite what form consolidation will take is difficult to gauge. Some predict it will be achieved with two or three massive mergers. Others favour the gradual metamorphosis theory whereby companies and countries form ever-closer alliances until they eventually operate as partnerships and not as individuals.

The alliances so far forged have been born of slow and often painful evolution rather than swift amalgamation. Farnborough will this week see much marketing of Europe's two big achievements — the Eurofighter, which will be marketed as Typhoon, and Airbus.

The Eurofighter is pitching for an export market worth more than $70 billion over 20 years. It already has orders for 620 aircraft from the governments of the four countries involved in the consortium — Britain (through British Aerospace), Germany (with Dasa), Italy (through Alenia) and Spain (with Casa).

The Eurofighter project was originally conceived as a show of military strength and expertise against the Soviet Union. Now its firepower is turned on the US as one of Europe's main aerospace assets. It is a costly aircraft, at up to £60 million a time, and export interest has been muted. But industry observers say that it represents the most sophisticated of combat aircraft of its type and that its time on the international stage is nigh. Airbus, the tie-up of BAe, Aérospatiale, Dasa and Casa, will be crowing at the air show. After claiming victory earlier this year in the hard-fought orders battle with Boeing, last month it won the prestigious £3 billion contract with British Airways — the first time BA had placed a big order with anyone but Boeing.

Its success, albeit at a very pared down price, has emphasised the change in balance between the two civil aircraft makers. Previously Boeing had ruled the skies while its rival struggled to shake off the "new kid" image to become a serious contender for the top place in civil aircraft production. Now Boeing, which last year appeared to have bolstered its position by taking over McDonnell Douglas, seems on the ropes. It has unnerved the US stock market with a $178 million loss and has sacked its head of civil aircraft operations.

By 2000 Airbus will be a single corporate entity, the first truly pan-European business. European companies will be keen to match this flagship with similar displays of unity.

Bill White, head of aerospace business development at EDS, the international consultant, believes that unity will evolve in the same fashion as Eurofighter and Airbus. While the consolidation in the US aerospace market has been created by a series of big mergers, he believes Europe will follow a different route. "European companies are likely to take more equity ownerships in each other while the existing alliances are likely to get deeper between governments and companies," Mr White said.

He also forecasts an injection of US cash into European aerospace. Such a move could lead to an eventual global business superseding the present positioning of two world players.

Others believe that time is too short for more gradual evolution. A fast and fundamental merger of European players is favoured by John Weston, chief executive of BAe. The company has already sent out warning shots about the need for rapid restructuring in the arms industry by saying that it could close its Royal Ordnance ammunitions factory or go into a joint venture with Rheinmetall. The move has alarmed the Ministry of Defence. The MoD does not want to pay inflated prices for its munitions but neither does it want to see the UK without its own production.

Herein lies the dilemma for Europe. Political sensitivities face a head-on clash with commercial reality. The political complexity, which the US has happily avoided, is also the key. Governments will want to ensure that their aerospace and defence champions do not go to the dogs because of the very different state make-up of Europe. The UK Government has made it clear that it believes rationalisation is crucial for aerospace to be competitive internationally. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has said bluntly that the industry must restructure or die. The Government is aware that aerospace is hugely important for the UK. The £15 billion-a-year industry is one of the country's few manufacturing success stories and a massive employer.

Tony Blair was quick to highlight the importance of the BA Airbus order when he appeared at the Toulouse announcement of the deal. He will know that there is more at stake than individual orders in the increasingly frantic race between Europe and the US for aerospace and arms markets.

The Society of British Aerospace Companies has said it will look to the Government to help with some of the hundreds of millions that companies will have to spend on restructuring, stressing the urgency of the need to rationalise and the consequences for the long-term prospects of keeping an aerospace industry. Tax breaks and extra spending on research and technology could be on the agenda as a means to smooth the radical restructuring process. But the Government will also have to think in broader terms about what it can facilitate.

As the heads of the aerospace industry mingle at Farnborough this week, they will be joined by government officials from the European partners. Arguably it will be the officials who are the more anxious to find solutions to the challenges facing aerospace companies.

TELEVISION CHOICE

On the Merseyside beat



Paul Usher, Sam Janus and Mark Womack as members of a vice squad (BBC1, 9pm)

Liverpool One
ITV, 9.00pm

Television's latest police drama is set in Liverpool (nothing original there) and concerns the operations of a vice squad. So look out for storylines about drug dealers, pornographers, paedophiles and prostitutes, delivered in an appropriately gritty style. Look out too for Samantha (here billed as Sam) Janus, in a new venture after a raft of flat-sharing sitcoms. She plays DC de Pauli, the newcomer to the team with the double disadvantage of being from London and having a degree in psychology. Janus's professional partner is DC Callaghan (Mark Womack), who behaves more like the villains than the villains themselves and is also related to half the cast, including the priest and his own informer. The first episode is a bit of a puzzle plotwise but as this is more serial than series, things should become clearer.

Fraud Squad
BBC1, 9.30pm

Birmingham's trading standards officers are the latest professionals to submit to the cameras, in a series that promises to offer diverting cases that fall some way short of the crime of the century. In tonight's opening episode there is a health alert after it is discovered that the paint on pestle and mortars imported from the Indian sub-continent carries dangerously high levels of lead. Local radio is called in to warn the unsuspecting public. More involving is the attempt to track down the owners of a chain of sex shops selling illegal hardcore pornography. Seizing the videos has little effect, as the shops start up again as if nothing had happened. They even replace signs which have been taken down. A more ingenious approach is demanded and the officers are not found wanting.

Veronica's Closet
ITV, 10.40pm

If you wondered what the creators of *Friends* did for an encore, here it is, a comedy about a woman who sells lingerie and other aids to marital bliss, but enjoys little of it herself. The reason is a philandering husband, who tends to advertise his affairs by letting his mistresses lose their bras down the family sofa. But you know that however much she threatens to leave him she never will or the premise of the show would collapse. The sub-joke is that the eponymous Veronica (played by a *Cheers* veteran, Kirstie Alley) is getting a bit too long in the tooth to be modelling seductive underwear, hence the helpful suggestion that she uses her head on a younger model's body. In the American style this is a comedy of short scenes and quickfire gags, rather than of character.

Video Diaries: Nightmare in Paradise
BBC2, 11.15pm

In July 1995 a group of foreign tourists, including the Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, were kidnapped in Kashmir, probably by a pro-Pakistan militant group which disputes India's right to the territory. At the end of last year Sean Langan, a financial journalist, travelled to Kashmir to make his own investigation. What was intended to be a two-week assignment turned into the most dangerous five months of his life and this three-part video diary, being shown on consecutive nights, is his first-hand account. To start with he accompanied the families of the hostages, including Mangan's wife Julie, and Wells's father Bob. Later he was on his own. His report shows how his professional instincts came into growing conflict with his feelings for the victims and their relatives. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Blue Peter Birthday Prom
Radio 3, 2.00pm.

This is an unusual concert in which musical instruments made out of old toilet roll holders, washing-up liquid containers, rolls of sticky tape and glue made from flour and water perform several works which were made earlier by famous composers. Actually, no I made that up, except for the bit about the composers. This is a special Prom to celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Blue Peter*, performed for children and their families. The conductors are Pascal Tortelier and Rumon Gumba, the latter conducting Wallen's *Percussion Concerto*, played by Adrian Spillett, the BBC Young Musician of the Year. Other works include Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Book at Bedtime: Brian Friel's Short Stories
Radio 4, 10.45pm

Brian Friel is well-known as an inventive dramatist but his short stories are not widely available, so that alone makes this five-night sequence of his work worth a listen. There is also a wider point to be made, which is that I happen to think the short story format should be used more often for *Book at Bedtime*, given that many people cannot listen at the same time every night. Friel's stories have in common the fact that they are set in the North-West of Ireland and they all deal with the mix of belief and hope that helps Friel's characters to get by, further aided by fantasy and illusion. Tonight's opening story is *Among the Ruins* about man visited by old memories, and it is read by Gerard McSorley. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.00am Chris Moyles 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 Lamacq Live with the Beastie Boys and Faithless in session 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00am Emma B 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Special 8.30 The Chris Barber Jazz Diaries 9.30 Mark Lamarr Shake Rattle and Roll 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie Othen

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Breakfast with Julian Worricker 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra. Presented by David McNeil 7.30 Master Managers. Bryon Butler reassesses the career of England's World Cup winner Sir Alf Ramsey 8.00 England's World Cup. Alan Green debates England's chances of staging the 2006 World Cup, with a panel including Sir Geoff Hurst 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night with Gary Robertson 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Bobby Hain 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Mark Forrest 7.30 James Merritt 10.00 Paul Coyte 1.00am Peter Poulton 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Stories from the Afterlife 7.30 Omnibus 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf:Mason's Mini Break 8.30 The Vintage Chart Show 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 International Question Time 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Record News 10.30 Weisway Access 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Jazzmatazz 1.00 News; (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 The Edge 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Westway Access 4.30 Joe Strummer's London Calling (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europa Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 Seven Days (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Brain of Britain 8.00 Proms '98 8.50 Pause for Thought 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Songs of the Sufi Mystics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack Hit List 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Weisway 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Seven Days 2.45 Bringing Up Baby 3.00 Newsday 3.30 On Screen 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey. Includes the start of a special selection of 100 favourite musical works 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame and Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto Bach (Concerto in D minor for 2 violins 3.00 Michael Mappin. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest news stories 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of easy-listening with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. Handel (Overture, Ariodante, Tra le fiamme; Suite No 5 in E major for Harpsichord; Water Music Suite No 1 in F; Chandos Anthem No 10) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air.** Presented by Petroc Trelawny. Includes Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat major); Villa-Lobos (Bachianas Brasileiras No 9)
9.00 **Masterworks,** with Penny Gore. Includes Boyce (Symphony in F); Handel (Chandos Anthem No 1: O Be Joyful in the Lord); Mozart (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat); Debussy (Petite Suite); Ravel (La Valse)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Jean-Yves Thibaudet**
11.00 **Sound Stories: Siren Voices.** Olympia Pelissier
12.00 **Proms Composer of the Week: Leos Janáček**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Proms Chamber Music 98.** Live from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Wind Soloists of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Mozart, arr Heidenreich (The Magic Flute, excerpts); Salieri (Armonia per un Tempio della Notte); Mozart (Serenade in E flat)
2.00 **BBC Proms 98: Blue Peter 40th Birthday Prom.** Islington Music Centre Children's Choir, Adrian Spillett, percussion, BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier and Rumon Gamba. Including Copland (Fanfare for the Common Man); Ravel (Bolero); Errolyn Wallen (Percussion Concerto, Finale). See Choice 2.45 The Pied Piper of Hamelin. Peggy Reynolds introduces a performance of *The Pied Piper* by Andrew Sachs
3.05 Concert, part two
4.00 **Opera to Order,** with Patrick O'Connor
4.45 **Music Machine: In at the Deep End** (r)
5.00 **In Tune.** Sean Rafferty talks to Diana Rigg as a new translation of Racine's play *Phèdre* opens in London
8.00 **BBC Proms 98.** Czech Philharmonic under Charles Mackerras. Janáček (Suite: The Cunning Little Vixen; Taras Bulba) 9.00 Britons and Bohemians 9.20 Concert, part two. Mahler (Symphony No 1)
10.25 **Postscript: Living Ideas** Leading philosophers offer their appreciation of great thinkers who have influenced their work and understanding of the world. Martha Nussbaum, Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, discusses Aristotle (1/5) (r)
10.40 **A Secret Mass.** A BBC Invitation concert recreating the sounds of a clandestine Roman Catholic Mass service as it might have been in the 17th century
11.30 **Jazz Notes.** Alyn Shipton is joined by Dave Gelly for jazz news and a book review
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Eisler and Weill** (r)
1.00am **Through the Night,** with Susan Sharpe

RADIO 4

6.00am **Today,** with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day
9.00 **A Week with.** A look behind the scenes at the week's events
9.30 **Let the Rumpus Begin** (1/4) (r)
9.45 **(FM) The Owl's Watchsong.** Tim Pigott-Smith reads J.A. Cuddon's 1950s tribute to the once imperial city of Istanbul (1/5) (r)
9.45 **(LW) Daily Service**
10.00 **News; Woman's Hour,** with Martha Kearney
11.00 **News; African Aromatherapy.** Anna Hill travels to Africa to discover how essential oils are cultivated
11.30 **Little Novels: Mr Marmaduke and the Minister.** A Victorian mystery by Wilkie Collins, dramatised by John Arden. With Ronald Pickup, Peter Kelly and Emma Fielding (r)
12.00 **(FM) News; You and Yours,** with Liz Barclay and John Waite 12.57pm Weather
12.00 **(LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.30 **Words in Music.** The last semi-final. Presented by Dena Quilley
2.00 **News; The Archers** (r)
2.15 **News; Afternoon Play: From a Distance,** by Maggie Allen. A journalist returns to Brighton to care for her sick father. With Frank Windsor, Emma Fielding and Maggie Steed
3.00 **Money Box Live.** Call 0171-580 444
3.30 **Blind Man on the Rampage.** Peter White presents a series of programmes with a unique take on life. (1/5) (r)
3.45 **The Lyrical Ballads.** Sam West reads from the work of Wordsworth and Coleridge, first published 200 years ago (1/4)
4.00 **News; The Food Programme.** Simon Parkes compares Italian delicatessens in Britain and in Italy — where a deli is called a salumeria (r)
4.30 **Four Corners,** with Jane Franchi and guests
5.00 **PM,** with Chris Lowe and Clare English 5.54 **(LW)** Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **The Very World of Milton Jones.** Comedy
7.00 **News; The Archers 7.15 Front Row.** Seamus Heaney, the 1995 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, joins Mark Lawson to discuss poetry and politics
7.45 **Dear Jayne Browne** (1/5) (r)
8.00 **News; Dr Feelgood.** Ian Stafford profiles Hans Muller-Wohlfahrt, the controversial orthopaedic doctor, the man they call "Dr Feelgood"
8.30 **In This Together: In Need.** Jenny Cuffe visits Wythenshawe, Manchester, to meet families unable to take up the opportunities presented by the welfare reforms
9.00 **News; Keiko's Story.** Mark Carwardine follows the journey of the killer whale used in the filming of *Free Willy* on its journey to freedom
9.30 **A Week with** (r) 10.00 **The World Tonight**
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Among the Ruins.** Gerard McSorley reads a series of short stories by Brian Friel. See Choice (1/5)
11.00 **Radio 4 Appeal.** For a charity which helps those affected by Huntington's disease (r)
11.02 **Late Night on 4: Antoine et Dougie,** by Brian McCabe. A Scottish schoolboy goes on an exchange trip to 1960s France (1/2)
11.30 **The Music That Binds Us.** Sue McGarry talks to Russell Grant and his lifelong friend Shirley Stansfield (2/4) (r)
12.00 **News 12.30am The Late Book: Tales from Ovid.** Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning reworking of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (6/10) (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service**
5.30 **World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast**
5.40 **Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day**
5.47 **Farming Today,** with Anna Hill

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

ZOPF

(a) In German, literally, a pigtail. But the word is used symbolically to describe what is antiquated or "old hat". It is applied particularly as a nickname to 18th-century arts in general. In music it signifies the easy-going manneristic composition in which immediate effectiveness took the place of genuine expression in a worthy form.

MERCAPTANS

(b) Organic compounds of Carbon, Hydrogen and Sulphur. They smell evil, pong dreadful, and are found in petroleum products, particularly unrefined motor gasoline or petrol. They must be removed or converted into unobjectionable forms by various treating processes or "sweetening".

GOOFUS

(c) An instrument like a saxophone, invented and played between the World Wars. It had 25 finger valves, each with its own reed. So it could play chords. It could be held to the mouth like a saxophone, or laid on the table and blown through a rubber tube.

SPATCHCOCK

(a) A fowl split open and grilled immediately after being killed, plucked and dressed in summary fashion. The old version of a television supper, used particularly on battlefields at close of play.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bc2! wins a piece, e.g. 1 ... Bxe5 2 Bxh5+ g6 3 fxg6 fxg5 4 g7+.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6736 (+0.0104)
German mark
2.9029 (-0.0501)
Exchange index
104.3 (-1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3284.3 (-45.2)
FTSE 100
5167.0 (-82.4)
New York Dow Jones
7640.25 (-411.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14042.91 (+127.28)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.82	2.74
Austria Sch	21.42	19.76
Belgium Fr	63.04	58.08
Canada $	2.678	2.490
Cyprus CypE	0.898	0.827
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75
Finland Mkk	8.38	8.63
France Fr	10.2	9.42
Germany Dm	3.06	2.82
Greece Dr	525	487
Hong Kong $	13.75	12.55
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.21	1.12
Israel Shk	6.78	6.12
Italy Lira	3041	2804
Japan Yen	238.68	222.16
Malta	0.678	0.619
Netherlds Gld	3.465	3.170
New Zealand $	3.43	3.19
Norway Kr	13.49	12.55
Portugal Esc	309.86	287.85
S Africa Rd	10.87	10.01
Spain Pta	257.83	239.04
Sweden Kr	14.10	13.00
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.31
Turkey Lira	473418	441951
USA $	1.777	1.634

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Farnworth SC 1743 06C Farnworth

هكذا من الأصل

Lenny, going a little potty in the Potteries

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

It is refreshing to see a black male entertainer on the television these days who isn't scowling, shoving a stubby microphone into his mouth with one hand, while jabbing the downturned fingers of the other into the camera lens. But I am white and middle-aged and not supposed to appreciate these things.

So too, at a glance, were most of the citizens of the Potteries, assembled at the Royal Theatre, Hanley, for **Lenny Goes to Town** (BBC1, Saturday). Lenny Henry has always been much bigger with white than black audiences. His first professional work was touring with *The Black And White Minstrel Show*, and, as Saturday's show reminded us, he is an old-fashioned end-of-pier variety performer — and a very good one.

We knew what we were in for from the opening titles, flashing through a sequence of Henry pulling comedy faces, gurneying like a pre-pubertal schoolboy. The show included some dreary soul singing from Robbie Williams, out of *Take That*, but Lenny Henry, I realised, is Tigger out of *Winnie the Pooh*. He bounced about the stage in a bright blue suit, whooping and squawking. He bounced about the audience, rubbing men's fuzzy haircuts and sitting in women's laps. In one insert he licked a bald man's scalp — not a tentative "Can I have a little taste?" lickette — a great big slimy flat-tongued wipe, which must have left a broad, desalinated stripe.

Other humiliations included the lads from the lavatory factory forced to perform their awful karaoke by Henry's incarnation as camp makeover maestro Rikki Park ("He's gonna blow-dry your mind"). In "Some Kids Do 'Ave 'Em" a vindictive little boy was allowed to punish his parents for making him kiss his granny and tidy his room. "It's all gooey and soggy," he said of kissing his poor grandmother, which made me wonder if she was deceased.

The climax, inevitably, was the appearance of Theophilus P. Wildebeest, in black leather open to the navel, with big silver epaulettes and a grotesque codpiece. This "lurve" god is always undermined, both by the ludicrous act and by Lenny Henry's physique, which, like his humour, is very broad, with "big, big" thighs and "child-bearing" hips. Nobody has done more to debunk the mystique of black male virility, which may account for the demography of his audiences.

Lenny Henry was splattering people's dignity all over the stage at a furious rate, but it was their bodily fluids that were going Awol in the two-part opener to the 13th series of **Casualty** (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). The last series rather lost its way, reducing the number of plotlines per episode, flatly lit and often flatly scripted, with the staff unrealistically involved in the patients' personal problems, while shouting at each other about their own. But the drama rallied in the final, frantic wedding episode, and now it has lurched fully to the *ER* end of the Accident and Emergency spectrum, complete with distractingly glamorous female staff.

They like to start with a disaster. This time it was a fire in a school, the unexpected result of a contorted build-up plot about a school bully whose flash, hardman father had stolen the mother of the bully's favourite victim from the victim's gentle, long-suffering dad.

We spent most of the first episode thinking this would lead to a knifing. In fact it was a careless caretaker leaving his fag burning on a sofa that precipitated disaster. The school was full of unauthorised gas canisters (unless I missed it in the confusion, this was never explained) so that the building was able to explode as violently as the villain's headquarters at the end of a James Bond film.

The situation was further complicated when the lorry driver, rushing to collect his daughter, abandoned at the hospital by her drunken pregnant mother (who was off giving herself a near-fatal DIY termination), swerved to avoid the gynaecologist's daughter (who was staggering back to hospital with the dying friend whom she had injected with alcohol as an experiment), and hit the car full of paramedics speeding to the fire, turning it over and nearly killing Mark, the black male nurse whom everybody fancies. Oof!

Only the non-English-speaking Asian mother of the baby with carbon monoxide poisoning, and the husband of the woman beaten to a pulp by loan sharks, escaped the carnage of this RTA. Apart from the groaning pile of mangled subplots, other innovations are much improved lighting and the fact that Bristol (or "Holby") is apparently full of people with northern accents. The locals have all left for an area where they can visit their hospital without getting sucked into a multiple accident scenario.

Lucy Gannon has written some of the best recent television drama. I have particularly enjoyed *Bramwell* and *The Gift* and was looking forward to **Big Cat** (BBC1, Sunday). As usual it was excellent on detail, such as the revolting bacon and tomato ketchup sandwich made by the amiable but slovenly heroine, Alice (Amanda Root).

The play also enjoyed taut direction and inventive camera work during the flashbacks of the anti-hero, Leo. These were our first clues that the gentle giant (another convincing psycho from David Morrissey, after tormented roles in *Holding On* and *Our Mutual Friend*) was a loony.

That was the trouble. It is too easy to make melodrama out of inexplicable manias. The play slipped from social realism into horror-comic Gothic, as we saw that Leo was "Mad! Mad, I tell you!" By the time he got that knitting needle through his eye I had ceased to care.

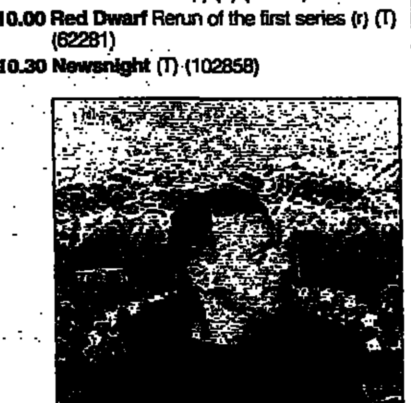
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (13262)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (90736)
9.00 Kilroy (7833552)
9.40 Breakers (7785262)
10.05 Sex Wars A look at "girl power" (9742991)
10.30 Daily Live (T) (4419945)
10.55 News and weather (T) (1980281)
11.00 Style Challenge (1070858)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (1073945)
11.55 News and weather (T) (7176945)
12.00 Through the Keyhole (T) (7929668)
12.25pm Wipeout (7004303)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (17480200)
1.00 News (T) and weather (93823)
1.30 Regional News (41045200)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (97364216)
2.05 Breakers (r) (29140303)
2.25 Quincy (r) (7767571)
3.15 The Weather Show (r) (T) (2648200)
3.25 Tales of Aesop (r) (5806303) **3.30** Playdays (r) (7835842) **3.50** Arthur (r) (7919858) **4.15** Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (6355910) **4.40** Goosebumps (T) (8587939) **5.00** Newsround (T) (8612991) **5.10** Blue Peter. A visit to the Arctic Circle (T) (6955991)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (583649)
6.00 News (T) and weather (397)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (649)
7.00 This Is Your Life New series presented by Michael Aspel (T) (8991)
7.30 Here and Now New series of news/consumer reports presented by Juliet Morris. Including Wendy Robbins on clairvoyant cheats who prey on the recently bereaved. Plus: a North London choir who have been banned from worshipping at their church because of complaints from residents (T) (533)
8.00 EastEnders Tiffany thinks long and hard about her life-changing decision; Pat considers leaving the Square (T) (4939)
8.30 Children's Hospital New series. Real-life stories from Birmingham Children's Hospital (T) (9674)
9.00 News (T) and weather (9736)
9.30 CHOICE **Fraud Squad** New series. Birmingham Trading Standards officers go underground to investigate an illegal sex shop (T) (93200)
10.00 Jade (1995) Adult thriller with David Caruso, with Chazz Palminteri and Linda Fiorentino. Directed by William Friedkin (T) (55736) **WALES: 10.00** Mad About Science (325741) **10.05** Mad About Science (988007) **10.35** FILM: Jade (7920378)
11.30 Return to Normandy Steven Spielberg discusses the making of his D-Day landings epic *Saving Private Ryan* (283552)
11.50 The Hill (1965, b/w) Tough military prison drama with Sean Connery. Sidney Lumet directs (T) (775484) **WALES: 12.05am** Return to Normandy (5650175) **12.25** FILM: The Hill (621156)
1.45am Weather (2914446)
1.50 BBC News 24 WALES: 2.25 Joins BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am English, English Everywhere (T) (9232026) **6.35** Deaf-Blind Education in Russia (5491823)
7.00 Teletubbies (r) (1631378) **7.25** Smurfs' Adventures (r) (1643113) **7.50** The Really Wild Show (r) (T) (3472910) **8.15** The Biskitts (4119200) **8.35** Tales of Aesop (8602552) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (6883026)
9.10 Hawkeye (r) (7928674) **9.50** Cartoon (6739939) **10.00** Teletubbies (79755)
10.30 The Man from Morocco (1945, b/w) Second World War drama with Anton Walbrook. Directed by Murz Greenbaum (T) (22118823)
12.20pm Consuming Passions (4958939) **12.30** Working Lunch (94378) **1.00** Penny Crayon (r) (57073649)
1.10 The Fighting Kentuckian (1949, b/w) John Wayne as a farmer who fights land-grabbers and tries to win the affections of a French general's daughter. George Waggner directs (T) (52934668)
2.45 News (T) (9714397)
2.50 Top Gear Motorsport Goodwood's Festival of Speed; test-driving Formula Palmer Audi cars (6394465)
3.25 News (T) (5804945) **3.30** How Does Your Garden Grow? (T) (755) **4.00** Change That (6957129) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6950216) **4.55** Esther: The Role of Modern Fathers (T) (8934620) **5.30** Today's the Day (246)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (825194)
6.45 Space 1999 (r) (T) (973465)
7.40 Ren and Stimpy (r) (T) (790303)
8.00 Local Heroes New series presented by Adam Hart-Davis. The shy scientist Henry Cavendish; farming pioneer Jethro Tull; offbeat illustrator William Heath Robinson (T) (5261)
8.30 Looking Good, Feeling Great Lowri Turner looks at health issues, including stress-related illnesses; alternative cures for impotence (7216)
9.00 Shooting Stars (r) (T) (7378)
9.30 Red Dwarf A-Z (r) (T) (93282)
10.00 Red Dwarf Rerun of the first series (r) (T) (62281)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (102858)



A scene from Sean Langan's video diary of a trip to Kashmir (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE **Nightmare in Paradise** Three-part video diary shown on consecutive nights; following Sean Langan's account of the search for tourists taken hostage by Kashmiri separatists (896945)
11.55 Grace Under Fire (915649)
12.25am Weather (4602408)
12.30 Learning Zone: The Spanish Chapel (82069) **1.00** Brecht on Stage (23021) **1.30** Richard II (68682) **2.00** The Greats (47779) **4.00** Get by in French (58021) **5.00** Information Technology (7904972) **5.45** Hardwick Hall (51779)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1268945)
9.25 Vanessa (T) (6895674)
10.15 This Morning (T) (84315465)
12.15pm Regional News (2492378)
12.30 News (T) and weather (81804)
1.00 WALES: Animal Country (88991)
1.00 BLT (88991) **1.30** Home and Away (T) (86303) **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3354910)
2.45 WALES: Stepping the World: The Maldives (948741)
2.45 BLT (948741)
3.15 News (T) (5802587)
3.20 Regional News (T) (5729200)
3.25 Wizadora (5719823) **3.35** Titch (r) (4248216) **3.50** Sooty and Co (T) (7831026) **4.15** Art Attack (T) (110945) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (3492991)
5.10 WALES: Get Gardening! (T) (9604533)
5.10 Yan Can Cook (9604533)
5.40 News (T) and weather (482571)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (885910)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (995864)
6.25 Regional weather (599216)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (945)
7.00 WALES: Wild Tracks: Aberport to Newquay (r) (6587)
7.00 Secrets of the Moor (r) (6587)
7.30 Coronation Street Steve and Maxine play a dangerous game (T) (129)
8.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Game show hosted by Chris Tarrant (9007)
8.30 Fat: Fatally Fat New six-part series on personal struggles with obesity (T) (1842)
9.00 CHOICE **Liverpool One** Drama series following the challenges faced by a policewoman who transfers to a vice squad in a different area. With Samantha Janus, Mark Womack and Tom Georgeson (T) (6945)
10.00 News (T) and weather (66007)
10.30 Regional News and weather (225858)



Kirstie Alley stars as Veronica in a new American sitcom (10.40pm)

10.40 CHOICE **Veronica's Closet** American sitcom about the head of a chain of lingerie shops. With Kirstie Alley, Dan Cortese and Jamey Sheridan (T) (242378)
11.10 Dharma and Greg Dharma buys an old school bus (T) (508113)
11.40 WALES: Renegade (2/2) (896465)
11.40 Midnight Caller (896465)
12.40am Football Extra (2723682) **1.40** World Football (r) (5724953) **2.05** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (2244408) **2.30** Club@vision Rewind (r) (9498392) **3.10** Vanessa (r) (T) (1833224) **4.00** Judge Judy (r) (T) (67572576) **4.20** Soundtrax (55912779) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen (67392750) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (60428) **5.30** News (92934)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except.
1.00pm Echo Point (88991)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7439674)
2.45-3.15 High Road (948741)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9604533)
6.25 Central News (995864)
7.00-7.30 Family Fortunes (6587)
11.40 Baywatch Nights (896465)
2.10am Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (1356224)
3.05 Vanessa (1852359)
3.50 Central Jobfinder '98 (2459999)
5.20 Asian Eye (9426576)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (2492378)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (4953484)
1.00 High Road (88991)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7439674)
2.45-3.15 Dig It with Den (948741)
5.08 Birthday People (1551649)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9604533)
6.00 Westcountry Live (99823)
7.00-7.30 Family Fortunes (6587)
11.40 Baywatch Nights (896465)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (2492378)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (88991)
2.45-3.15 Quids In (948741)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9604533)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (465)
6.30 Country Ways (945)
7.00-7.30 The Antiques Trail (6587)
11.40 The Pier (298484)
12.05am The Listings (9528427)
12.10 Public Morals (8194750)
5.00 Freescreen (60428)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
1.00pm-1.30 Split Second (88991)
2.45-3.15 Stepping the World (948741)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9604533)
6.23 Anglia Weather (590945)
6.25 Anglia News (995864)
7.00-7.30 Recipe for Disaster (6587)
11.40 Renegade (896465)

S4C

Starts: **7.00am The Big Breakfast** (89674) **9.00 Bewitched** (76484) **9.30 FILM: Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe** (83069804) **11.25 20th Century Hall of Fame** (1215571) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (3939) **12.00pm Happy Days** (56620) **12.30 Sesame Street** (85674) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (57082397) **1.15 Ding Dong** (57070552) **1.30 Tastes of Britain** (84945) **2.00 Classic Homes** (7723) **2.30 Moving People** (378) **3.00 Real Gardens** (9620) **3.30 The Living Sea** (823) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners** (858) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (842) **5.00 5 Pump** (5104026) **5.15 Ffeil** (8624736) **5.30 Countdown** (194) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (256484) **6.10 Heno** (830026) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (712910) **7.25 Radicaliaid Celtaidd** (924484) **8.00 Gair Am Aur** (7649) **8.30 Newyddion** (9484) **9.00 Hafod Haidd** (8674) **9.30 Sgorio** (8167649) **10.35 FILM: Carry on Constable** (45676755) **12.10am NYPD Blue** (9256589) **1.05 Critical Condition** (9165224) **1.35 In Your Dreams** (5723224) **2.05 Diwedd** (54133137)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (39200) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (T) (89674) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (76484)
9.30 Diamond Horseshoe (1945) Musical, the first in a week-long season starring Betty Grable. A showgirl is bribed to make a medical student fall in love with her. George Seaton directs (T) (83069804)
11.25 20th Century Hall of Fame A profile of Ronald Reagan (1215571) **11.30** Here's One I Made Earlier. Tuscan bean soup (r) (T) (3939) **12.00** *Sesame Street* (56620) **12.30pm** I Dream of Jeannie (T) (85674) **1.00** Watercolour Challenge (r) (T) (6817179)
1.35 All Through the Night (1942, b/w) Comedy-thriller starring Humphrey Bogart and Conrad Veidt. A Broadway gambler foils Nazi saboteurs. Directed by Vincent Sherman (93367804)
3.30 Classic Homes (r) (T) (823) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners (r) (T) (858) **4.30** Countdown (T) (3402378) **4.55** Montel Williams: Surprise Wedding Proposals (T) (8032216)
5.30 Pet Rescue Rehousing popular breeds of dog (T) (194)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (197)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (587)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (489216)
7.55 Algeria Daily Daily documentary series about the civil war in Algeria (T) (853991)
8.00 The World's Oldest Living Bridesmaid (1990, TVM) Romantic comedy starring Donna Mills and Brian Wimmer. A top female attorney falls in love with her younger male secretary. Directed by Joseph L. Scanlan (20289113)
9.45 Seventeen Short drama about a teenager's love (r) (T) (814303)
10.00 NYPD Blue: Weaver of Hate Tempers flare when the father of a murdered teenager uses racial epithets (T) (246026)
10.55 X-Rated Ricki Tonight's guests are transvestites (T) (434543)



Meryl Streep as the tormented Resistance fighter (11.40pm)

11.40 Plenty (1985) Political drama based on David Hare's play, starring Meryl Streep, Sam Neill and Charles Dance. Susan Traherne is haunted by her experiences as a Resistance fighter in occupied France upon her return to Britain; and her erratic behaviour places the lives of those around her in danger. Directed by Fred Schepisi (T) (62998571)
2.00am Edinburgh or Bust (r) (90798)
2.30 The Show Goes On (1937, b/w) Musical starring Gracie Fields as a mill girl who succeeds in a music-hall career. Directed by Basil Dean (715576)
4.10 The Magnet (1950, b/w) Comedy starring William Fox as a schoolboy who runs away to join an East End gang. Directed by Charles Frend (6990601)
5.30 Alien Nations (r) (T)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News and Sport (6771026)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (1754200) **7.30** Milkshake! (5807216) **7.35** What-a-Mess (1974587) **8.00** Havakazoo (9916804) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (r) (9011303) **9.00** The Great House Game (r) (T) (5811674) **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (8675842) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (7515668) **10.20** Sunset Beach (r) (T) (4770571) **11.10** Leeza (1536115)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (9919991) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (2228465) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (1753571) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (2227736) **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (4629115) **2.30** Open House with Gloria Hunniford presented by Angela Rippon (3499910)
3.30 Lullaby of Broadway (1951) with Doris Day, Gene Nelson and Jessica Howard. Musical comedy about an English actress and her celebrity mother who has fallen on hard times. Directed by David Butler (2292113)
5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Celebrity Houses For Sale (9349216)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4390397)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (4381649)
7.00 5 News (T) (7030921)
7.30 Where the Bison Roam Wildlife documentary on the wood bison, which live beyond the Mackenzie River in Canada (T) (4370533)
8.00 The House Doctor The team visit East Dulwich (T) (5275259)
8.30 Crime Report Topical magazine with John Taylor (5079656)
9.00 Red Sonja (1985) Sword-and-sorcery adventure with Brigitte Nielsen, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sandahl Bergmann. A warrior sets out to avenge the murder of her family by a megalomaniac queen. Directed by Richard Fleischer (25564465)
10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (6446571)
10.45 The Program (1993) with James Caan, Halle Berry and Omar Epps. Drama about the dictatorial coach of an American college football team. Directed by Frank Tuttle (95654842)



John Elway, quarter-back for the Denver Broncos (12.50am)

12.50am NFL American Football — Live Coverage of the Denver Broncos v the New England Patriots (88141885)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4450175)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4353205)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

8.00am Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters (93129) **8.30** Street Sharks (12200) **9.00** Garfield & Friends (11692) **9.30** Simpsons (45026) **10.00** Games World (2680129) **10.15** Games World (2590562) **10.30** Just Kidding (11656) **11.00** The Superman (39649) **12.00** Married with Children (96216) **12.30pm** MASH (7015736) **12.55** Special K Collection (61680571) **1.00** Geraldo (3023194) **1.55** Special K Collection (51859842) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (2975295) **2.55** Special K Collection (9127991) **3.00** Jenny Jones (4727465) **3.55** Special K Collection (1909281) **4.00** Oprah (38216) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6200) **6.00** Married with Children (8533) **6.30** Friends (2113) **7.00** Simpsons (7129) **7.30** Real TV (8397) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (81842) **9.00** Sliders (76378) **10.00** Chicago Hope (71465) **11.00** Friends (39945) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (85277) **12.30am** Nowhere Man (99595) **1.30** Long Play (5852392)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Grosse Point Blank (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Conspiracy Theory (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie (1997)
Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion (1997)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure (1994) (9838194) **7.15 Buck and the Magic Bracelet (1997)** **9.00 Alaska (1996)** (16200) (26801769) **11.00 An Unexpected Family (1996)** (27552) **1.00pm Buck and the Magic Bracelet (1997)** (90216) **3.00 Ladyhawke (1985)** (86213) **5.00 Alaska (1996)** (61179) **7.00 An Unexpected Family (1996)** (49026) **9.00 Touched By Evil (1996)** (86397) **11.00 Dangerous Minds (1995)** (860991) **12.40am Basquiat (1996)** (893446) **2.35 Only When I Laugh (1981)** (580381) **4.35 The Land Before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure (1994)** (6257682)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am The Last American Hero (1973) (62262) **8.00 After Jimmy (1996)** (95638) **10.00 A Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995)** (41200) **12.00 The Last American Hero (1973)** (97129) **2.00pm Little Shop of Horrors (1986)** (66587) **4.00 After Jimmy (1996)** (2674) **6.00 A Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995)** (73823) **8.00 Moses: Part Two (1995)** (85668) **10.00 Johnny Mnemonic (1995)** (346216) **11.40 Hijacked: Flight 285 (1996)** (468842) **1.15am The Cherokee Kid (1996)** (587330) **2.50 Crime of the Century (1996)** (66522446)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Scarlet Empress (1934) (9013571) **6.00 Major League (1989)** (2990674) **8.00 The World's Greatest Lover (1977)** (2899991) **10.00 The Abyss (1989)** (63173674) **12.20am When the Cat's Away (1996)** (1509514) **2.00 Les Patterson Saves the World (1988)** (3699458) **3.30 I Met Him in Paris (1937)** (37022408) **4.55** Close

TNT

9.00pm Singin' in the Rain (1952) (98658465) **11.00 The Big Sleep (1946)** (61254991) **1.00am White Heat (1949)** (61245243) **3.00 Demon Seed (1977)** (71649069) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** Basketball **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Cricket: Lancashire v Hampshire — Live **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** League Review **8.00** Motorcycling **10.00** League Review **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** Cricket **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00** League Review **1.00am** Motorcycling **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Racing News **8.00** Golf: Greater Milwaukee Open **10.00** Golf: European Masters **11.00** Motorcycling **1.00pm** Drag Racing **1.30** This Week in Baseball **2.00** Tennis: US Open **4.00** Tennis: US Open — Live **10.00** This Week in Baseball **10.30** V-Max **11.00** Survival of the Fittest **11.30** Windsurfing **12.00** Beach Volleyball **12.30am** Tennis: US Open — Live **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Oxford United v Portsmouth **1.30pm** NFL American Football **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Windsurfing **6.30** Survival of the Fittest **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** Dancing **9.00** Football League Review **10.00** Sports Classics **11.00** Olympic Destinies **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Athletics **9.15** Cycling: Tour of Spain **10.00** X Games **11.00** Euro 2000 Qualifying **1.00pm** Duathlon **2.00** Cycling: Tour of Spain — Live **4.00** Ebrun Triathlon **4.30** Euro 2000 Qualifying **6.00** Motorsport **7.00** Youth Only Zone **8.00** Strongman **9.00** Euro 2000 Qualifying **11.00** Boxing **12.00** X Games **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Bergerac **10.30** The Sullivans **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** All Creatures Great and Small **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** Bergerac **4.55** EastEnders **5.30** Angels **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small **7.00** Don't Wait Up **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Red Dwarf **10.20** Red Dwarf **11.00** Red Dwarf **11.35** Red Dwarf **12.10am** Red Dwarf **12.45** The Bill **1.15** The Bill **1.45** Casualty **2.55** Shopping

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box **7.00** The Army Game **7.30** Please Sir! **8.00** Me and My Girl **8.30** That's My Boy **9.00** Coronation St **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** The Avengers **11.00** The Persuaders **12.00** Coronation St **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Beadle's About **1.30** Watching **2.00** Thomas and Sarah **3.00** The Avengers **4.00** Mission: Impossible **5.00** The Persuaders **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Coronation St **7.00** Beadle's About **7.30** Mind Your Language **8.00** The Avengers **9.00** Coronation Street **9.30** Comedians **10.00** Fitz **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE]

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Pull the Other One **7.00** The Upper Hand **7.30** Home To Roost **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Boon **12.00** Pull the Other One **12.30am** Home To Roost **1.00** Close



John Cusack stars as a hitman who returns to his home town for a high school reunion in *Grosse Point Blank* (Sky Box Office 1)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.30** Classic Toons **6.40** Gummi Bears **7.00** Aladdin **7.25** Classic Toons **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.30** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon & Pumbaa **8.45** Winnie the Pooh **9.00** Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** Toothbrush Family **10.15** Tots TV **10.30** Let's Wiggle **10.35** Big Garage **10.50** PB & Jelly Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** Toothbrush Family **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** Let's Wiggle **1.35** The Big Garage **1.50** PB & Jelly Otter **2.05** Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon & Pumbaa **3.45** Aladdin **4.15** 101 Dalmatians **4.45** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Recess **5.45** Pepper Ann **6.00** The Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Brotherly Love **7.30** Student Bodies **8.00** FILM: Just Like Dad **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Beetleborgs Metallix **9.00** Masked Rider **9.25** The Incredible Hulk **9.50** Iron Man **10.15** Fantastic Four **10.40** X-Men **11.05** Spiderman **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Casper **12.05pm** Ace Ventura **12.30** Eek! Stravaganza **12.42** The Mouse and the Monster **12.54** Casper **1.06** Terrible Thunderlizards **1.18** Home to Rent **1.30** The Incredible Hulk **1.55** Iron Man **2.20** Fantastic Four **2.45** X-Men **3.10** Spiderman **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek! Stravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Fraggle Rock **6.30** Muppet Babies **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Animals of Farthing Wood **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Rocky and the Dodos/Mr Benn/Mr Men **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Angry Beavers **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am On the Make **7.15** What a Life **7.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell **8.30** USA High **9.00** Heartbreak High **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Ready or Not **11.00** On the Make **11.15** What a Life **11.30** California Dreams **12.00** Hollyoaks **12.30pm** Heartbreak High **1.30** Madison **2.00** Echo Point **2.30** 9-2-5 **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** Hollyoaks **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.00** Hang Time **5.30** USA High **6.00** California Dreams **6.30** Bangs **6.45** Rush **7.00** Madison **7.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Crosswits **5.30** Prize Time **5.45** Family Fortunes **6.15** Prize Time **6.30** Catchphrase **7.00** Challenge Prize Time **7.15** 100 Per Cent **7.45** Prize Time **7.55** The Crystal Maze **9.00** Prize Time **9.15** Strike it Lucky **9.45** Prize Time **10.00** The Cooler **10.30** Prize Time **10.45** Carnal Knowledge **11.45** Prize Time **12.00** Karaoke Challenge **12.30am** Treasure Hunt **1.30** The Pyramid Game **2.00** Crosswits **2.30** Family Fortunes **3.00** The Cooler **3.30** Blockbusters **4.00** Blade Warriors **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** The Basement **9.30** Cops **10.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries **11.00 FILM: Warlock: The Armageddon** **1.00am** Beverly Hills Bordello **1.30** Red Shoe Diaries **2.00** The Basement **2.30** Cops **3.00 FILM: Adventures of a Private Eye** **5.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol **5.30** Freaky Stories

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne **7.30** Cosby **8.00** Grace Under Fire **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Ellen **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Kenny Everett **11.30** Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Saturday Night Live **1.30** Saturday Night Live **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Kids in the Hall **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Quantum Leap **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Evil Dead II: Dead by Dawn** **11.40** SF Scene Special **12.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am The Joy of Painting **6.30** Gardeners' Diary **7.00** Grassroots **7.30** New Yankee Workshop **8.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **8.30** Hometime **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Grassroots **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **11.30** Hometime **12.00** Home Again **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** Antiques Trail **1.30** Our House **2.00** Classic This Old House **2.30** The Close Guide **3.00** Go Fishing **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **4.30** Top Marques **5.00** Flightline **5.30** Jurassica II **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Ultimate Guide Dogs **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World **8.00** The Adventurers **9.00** Killer Weather **10.00** Drills and Spills: Panama Canal **11.00** Strike Force: Mig 29 **12.00** Flightline **12.30am** Top Marques **1.00** Adrenalin Rush Hour! Shark Hunters **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00 Rediscovery of the World **1.00pm** Breed All About It **1.30** Zoo Story **2.00** Australia Wild **2.30** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **3.00** Kratt's Creatures **3.30** Two Worlds: World of the Sea Lion **4.00** Wild at Heart: Giraffes of the Transvaal **4.30** Kratt's Creatures **5.00** Kratt's Creatures **5.30** Human/Nature **6.30** Rediscovery of the World **7.30** Animal Doctor **8.00** Wildlife Rescue **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Champions of the Wild **9.30** Going Wild **10.00** Animal Doctor **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Human/Nature **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Predators: Lions of the Kalahari **8.00** Predators: The Teeth of Death **9.00** Predators. Brother Wolf **10.00** Predators. Island of the Giant Bears **11.00** Moving Giants **11.30** The Firstborn **12.00** Mysteries of the Maya **12.30am** Herculaneum: Voices of the Past **1.00** Close

TRAVEL [CABLE]

12.00 On The Loose In Wildest Africa **12.30pm** Summer Getaways **1.00** Holiday Maker **1.30** North Of Naples, South Of Rome **2.00** The Flavours Of France **2.30** The Wonderful World Of Tom **3.00** Whicker's World **4.00** Go 2 **4.30** Worldwide Guide **5.00** A Rivor Somewhere **5.30** Cities Of The World **6.00** North Of Naples, South Of Rome **6.30** On Tour **7.00** On The Loose In Wildest Africa **7.30** Summer Getaways **8.00** Holiday Maker **8.30** Go 2 **9.00** Of Tales And Travels **10.00** The Wonderful World Of Tom **10.30** Worldwide Guide **11.00** On Tour **11.30** Cities Of The World **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Hitler's Navy: German U-Boats In World War Two **5.00** Civil War Journal. The Boy Generals **6.00** Ancient Mysteries: Miraculous Canals of Venice **7.00** Biography: Adolf Eichmann **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** Planet Nosh **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Costa del Nosh **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** First Taste **2.00** The Green Gourmet **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Jenny Bristow Country Cooking **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Simply Antony **4.30** What's Cooking? **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Beyond Belief, Fact or Fiction **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Rolonda **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Jimmy's **12.45** Rescue 911 **1.15** Ready, Steady, Cook **1.50** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **2.20** Living it Up! **3.20** Rolonda **4.10** Tempest! **5.00** Ready, Steady, Cook **5.35** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Beyond Belief, Fact or Fiction **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: Lightning in a Bottle** **11.00** The Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.00am Your Zindagi **6.30** Positive Health Show **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Buniyaad **9.00** Daastan **9.30** Mujhe Chaand Chahi **10.00** Awaazain **11.00** Jhal Pat Khana **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Ikke Pe Ikka **3.30** Your Zindagi **4.00** Campus **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Andaz **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Teacher **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Yehi Hai Zindagi **7.30** Filmi Baaten **8.00** News Bulletin **8.30** Gumrah **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** Shepath **10.30** Mysteries **11.30** Hero Kai Aaj Aur Kal **12.00** News Bulletin **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Chashme Baddoor **1.30** Raahat **2.00** FILM **4.30** Tamil Programme **5.30** Old Is Gold



RESULTS 43
Rio Tinto digs in amid tight world market

BUSINESS

ECONOMY 44
Roger Bootle on the MPC's toughest test



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 1998

Markets at mercy of policy vacuum

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

WORLD stock markets are braced for another turbulent, Russia-dominated week with no clear sign yet of a co-ordinated policy response from the Group of Seven industrialised nations but just a hint that salvation may come from a cut in US interest rates.

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, who has been silent as the crisis in Russia has intensified, finally told an academic conference in California late on Friday that he now regarded the risks to the US economy as balanced. Fedwatchers pounced on his words as proof that the Fed no longer has a "bias" towards raising interest rates.

Mr Greenspan said: "It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

In remarks suggestive that a cut in rates may be considered over the next few months as the threat of inflation recedes and growth slows down, he said: "As dislocations abroad mount, feeding back on our financial markets, restraint is likely to intensify."

Hopes of lower rates, the Fed's chosen policy after the 1987 Wall Street crash, are becoming the focus of attention for investors rattled by the sharp slide in share prices. However, there is no firm evidence yet of any co-ordinated rate response within the G7.

Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, late last week insisted that recent slides in stock markets were a healthy correction and said that a German rate cut now would be counterproductive.

The perception in Britain, too, is that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is some way from considering a cut in base rates. A large majority of City economists expect the MPC to leave interest rates unchanged after its meeting this week.

Michael Saunders, UK economist with Salomon Smith Barney, said: "The dampening effects on household wealth and confidence of the slide in equity markets counts heavily against a hike, but the outlook for domestic demand is not so weak — compared with the slowdown which the MPC believes is necessary to cap price pressures – to justify a near-term ease."

Apart from longer-term hopes on interest rates, none of a number of high-level meetings over the weekend offered the markets anything new to bolster confidence. A meeting on Friday in San Francisco between Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, and Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, appeared to yield nothing concrete. After the talks, Mr Rubin said: "I'd like to hope that the kinds of discussions we've had will move things forward but ultimately what's going to matter is what Japan does."

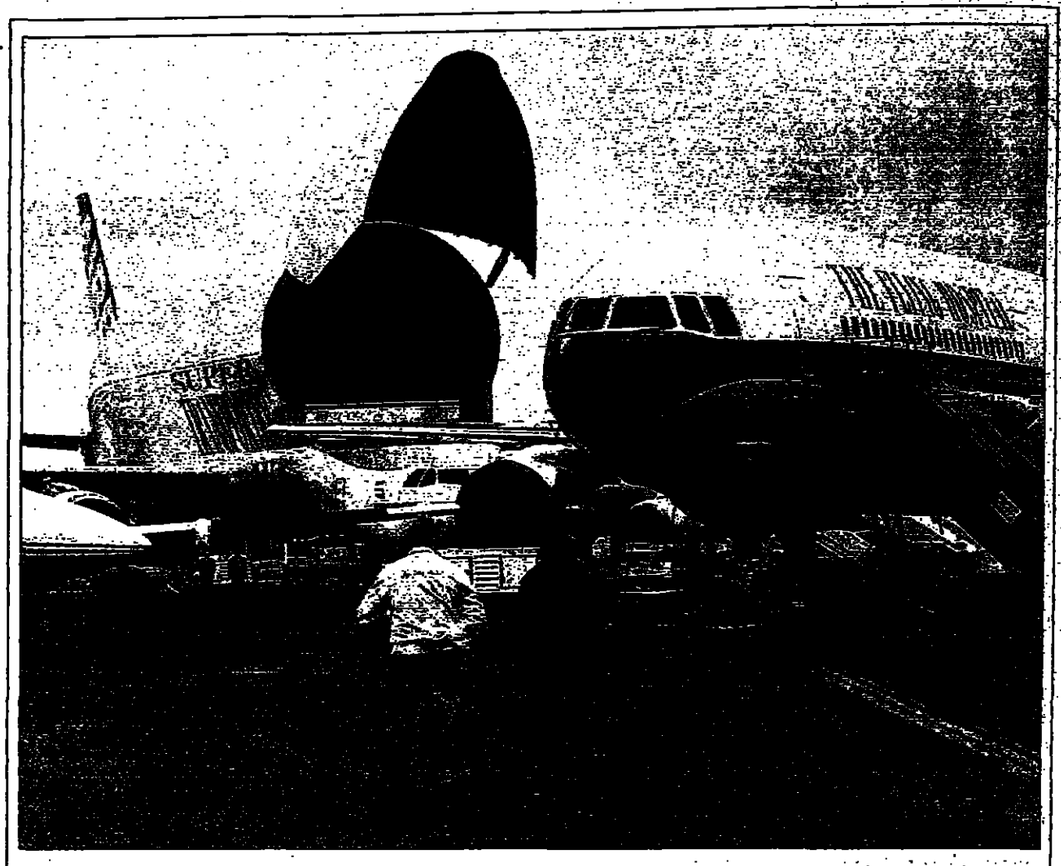
European foreign ministers meeting in Salzburg issued a declaration on Russia which did not mention further financial aid and made no explicit reference to Russia's debts.

The G7 said on Saturday that top-level officials or deputies would gather in London this week but it emerged yesterday that the meeting is unlikely to take place until the weekend.

Finance ministers, although furiously discussing the Russian crisis with each other by telephone, will not be directly involved in the London meeting which is aimed at forming a detailed response to Russia at the level of officials which will then be put to finance ministers.



Kiichi Miyazawa met the US Treasury Secretary



ORDERS worth more than $10 billion (£6 billion) are expected to be announced at the Farnborough International Air Show which starts today (Christine Buckley writes). The airshow will be the biggest so far staged. It will also be a critical point in the battle between Europe's aerospace companies and their US competitors. Airbus, the four-nation European consortium, is expected to announce a stream of orders worth up to $2 billion to follow its deal to supply British Airways with short-haul jets which was agreed last month.

Transatlantic dogfight, page 46

Russian provision tipped at EBRD

BY JANET BUSH

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is this week expected to announce heavy provisions for losses in Russia when it unveils its mid-year results.

Responding to speculation about its exposure to the Russian economic meltdown, the London-based bank said yesterday that it would include in its results "reference to an initial assessment of a possible impact of the recent events in Russia on the bank's portfolio".

The bank denied categorically that it would be writing off any of its investments in Russia and denied that it would need an injection of new capital.

Russia is by far the most important client of EBRD finance, accounting for 25 per cent of all its investments as of the end of last year. The latest figures for July this year show that it has distributed 1.4 billion ecus (£950 million) to projects in Russia but has committed itself to a further 2.7 billion ecus, giving the bank a total exposure of some £2.8 billion.

It is believed that a significant proportion of EBRD lending has been to Russian banks given that, according to its 1997 annual report, a core element of its strategy in Russia has been to strengthen local banking and financial institutions. In addition, as of the end of 1997, the EBRD had invested in five funds which invest directly in Russian companies and 11 Regional Venture Funds that provided new capital to help restructure privatised companies.

The Bank could not confirm yesterday when it expects to release its interim results but the best guess is in midweek.

Poor results set seal on corporate gloom

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

A WELTER of big company results out this week will show conclusively that growth in corporate profits is slowing.

Analysts are pessimistic about the signals that UK plc will deliver. Paul O'Connor, equity strategist at CSFB, said corporate earnings would "continue to be dreadful".

He added that average profits growth would struggle to meet 2 per cent. At the start of the year he had forecast that UK corporate earnings would rise by 4 per cent.

Bob Semple, of BT Alex Brown, said this week would bring more firms complaining about the impact of the Asian crisis and the continuing strength of sterling.

Philip Wolstencroft, UK equities strategist at Merrill Lynch, said: "People are expecting bad news and the chances are that those expectations will be fulfilled ... Things are deteriorating more quickly than we thought."

The companies reporting this week operate in a broad range of industrial and service sectors. Included in the list are BTR and BBA, the engineers; Billiton, the resources group; Burmah Castrol, the oil company; United News and Media, owner of *The Express*; Norwich Union, the insurance group which demutualised last year and Coats Viyella, the textiles group which is in the throes of a demerger.

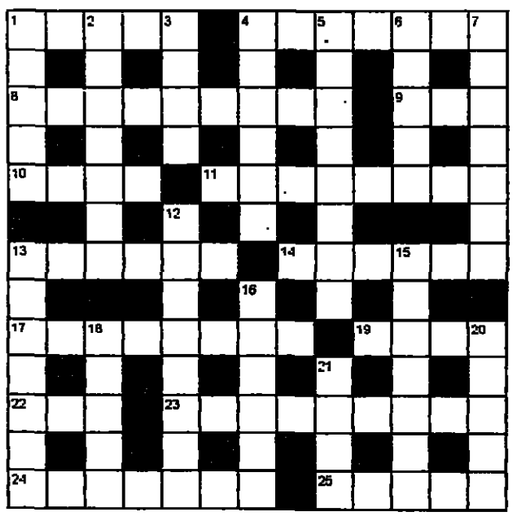
Professional equity market watchers cast doubt on whether the expected poor streak of results will hit share prices.

Mr Semple said: "Profits figures may make a difference for individual stocks but more is being asked about the general malaise in global markets. People are pondering whether this is the start of a full blooded bear market or whether we will see a bounce."

Mr O'Connor said that the stock market had already taken account of poorer profits expectations while Mr Wolstencroft said the condition of the bond markets meant share prices were well supported.

Companies, page 43

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1504

ACROSS
1 Delius's *Great City*; Mozart's 31st (5)
4 A crab; a cheat (7)
8 Disagreeable, distasteful (9)
9 Soft roll (3)
10 Bitter drink (4)
11 Ninepins (8)
13 Business; substance (6)
14 Innate; too closely related (6)
17 Rum cocktail (8)
19 House covering (4)
22 Resin for varnish; RAF rank *(abbr.)* (3)
23 Taken for granted (9)
24 Rice stock dish (7)
25 Maths. ring shape (5)

DOWN
1 Sounding weight, line (5)
2 Treat considerately (7)
3 Except (4)
4 Liveried servant (6)
5 Mortarless (wall) (3-5)
6 To defame (5)
7 Rested, placed (7)
12 Sulkily irritable (8)
13 Made in fitting segments (7)
15 Cock (7)
16 *Twelfth Night* duke (6)
18 Anvil bone (ear) (5)
20 Light-convergence point (5)
21 Discharge (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1503
ACROSS: 4 Dig 8 Routine 9 Halve 10 Voter 11 Distend 12 Disagree 14 Weir 15 Lark 16 Oklahoma 20 Chasten 21 Demob 23 Niece 24 Nonagon 25 Peg
DOWN: 1 Proved 2 Runt 3 Oil-rig 4 Dead reckoning 5 Ghost 6 Alter ego 7 Lender 13 Streamer 15 Lacuna 17 Aiding 18 Albino 19 Steep 22 Magi

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO SATURDAY HOLIDAY JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Bramble 5 Shortfall 10 Automaton 15 Ratatouille 16 Oilskin 17 Workman 18 Hammer-toe 19 Grandfather 20 Hydro 21 Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep 23 Mum's the word 25 Rousseau 27 Cassis 30 Wine-taster 32 Lean-to 33 Almshouse 36 Dacha 37 Anti- aircraft 39 Supplant 41 Silently 42 Battleground 43 Flies 45 Arriviste 46 Ionian 48 Iterations 51 Timbre 53 Literate 54 Predecessor 57 Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse 61 Let up 62 Rear Admiral 63 Celebrant 64 Etching 65 Hands-on 66 Maiden overs 67 Spearhead 68 Dissenter 69 Takings
DOWN: 1 Bartholomew 2 Attempt 3 Better late than never 4 Equitable 5 Solve 6 Overgreedy 7 Trojan Horse 8 Alludes 9 Like a house on fire 10 Anne Hathaway 11 Thwarted 12 Marches 13 Timidness 14 Non compos mentis 22 Property 24 Monocular 26 Unnerve 28 A chip off the old block 29 Smoulder 31 Seamless 34 Unanimous 35 Paradise Regained 36 Distastefulness 38 Rotunda 40 Rustle up 44 Semi-detached 47 Agent Orange 49 Screen tests 50 Speed limit 52 Moustache 55 Excellent 56 Prorogue 58 Happier 59 Osmosis 60 Phase in 63 Crier

3i survey finds drop in firms' confidence

BY CIARAN HUGHES

CONFIDENCE in the British economy among independent businesses has fallen heavily since July, according to 3i, the venture capital company, in a report published today.

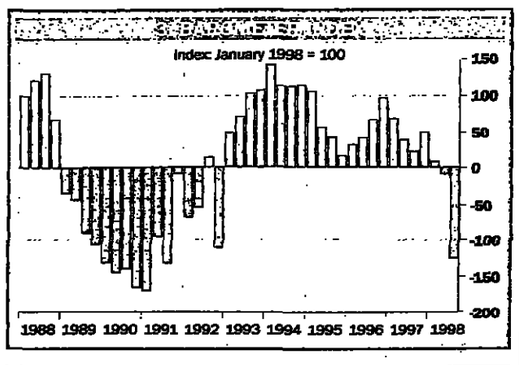
The mood about the general business and political climate in 3i's Barometer Index has fallen to a level last seen in the depths of recession in 1991.

However, 3i also finds that companies remain optimistic about their own prospects. Brian Larcombe, chief executive of 3i, said that this was evidence that the economy is slowing down but not to the point of recession.

The survey showed that 71.2 per cent of companies believe that the economic climate has become less favourable for starting up new businesses. The last time that this question was answered so negatively was in September, 1992, just after sterling left the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The survey also showed that non-manufacturing firms are now joining their manufacturing counterparts in reporting a strong downturn in the economy, echoing the results of other recent surveys. Nevertheless, manufacturing firms remain less optimistic than services companies.

Despite the slowdown, 54.6 per cent of companies surveyed still expect to employ more people by the end of 1998 than they did at the end of 1997. This is, though, a considerably lower proportion than 3i found in its previous survey.



Football deal will get clubs out of corner

BY ROBERT COLE

THE PROSPECT of a takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB is likely to trigger a hunt to identify other acquisition candidates among football club companies. As a result, share prices of some football clubs whose parent companies' shares are listed on the Stock Exchange are likely to jump sharply when trading starts this morning.

Shares in Manchester United are likely to rise from the 159p price at which they closed on Friday to 200p or more. If suggestions that Manchester United as a whole will fetch £575 million are correct, United shares would be worth about 220p each, or 40 per cent more than on Friday evening.

Any price rises among football stocks will come as welcome relief for many investors, however. Most have suffered disappointing returns as worries circulated about the vulnerability of income streams.

Other football shares are unlikely to rise as much as Manchester United, which is the most consistently successful both on the pitch and as a business. Less than half a dozen other teams are likely to feature in any European superleague, which alone could justify high financial ratings for football clubs. Of these, Arsenal is traded on the Ofex junior exchange and Liverpool is a private company.

Analysts estimate that fully quoted shares in other football club companies could rise by 20 per cent. "I am sure the news will lead to some frenzied activity," said one.

Investor attention will quickly turn from Manchester United to Tottenham Hotspur, the company that owns the North London club. Rumours have been circulating for several weeks that Alan Sugar, the chairman and major shareholder who made his fortune from Amstrad personal computers, would like to sell up. A move on Manchester United may provide a benchmark price at which a Spurs deal could be done.

Tottenham shares ended last week at 60½p, only 1½p above their low for 1998, but 27 per cent. or 16p, below their peak.

Beyond Manchester United and Spurs investor interest will focus on companies that own football clubs that play in the Premiership. Newcastle, Leicester City, Leeds Sporting — which owns Leeds United Football Club — and Aston Villa are all likely to find themselves under the stock market microscope.

☐ Greg Dyke, the former managing director of London Weekend Television who became a multi-millionaire when LWT was sold to rival TV company Granada, is also likely to benefit financially if the Manchester United deal materialises. Mr Dyke was appointed a non-executive director of Manchester United a year ago, and has acquired shares.

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